

TEACH them

2nd Segment: (15 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

The intent with this section is to **tell the Bible story** in a compelling, animated, and interesting way. A good communicator uses the following script only as a guideline to speak, but never reading from it, as children can lose interest. Make the story come alive with voice inflections, funny anecdotes and noises, and passionate emotion. We intentionally give great latitude for the speaker to make it 'their own', using props, involving kids...whatever you can do to help the kids remember the Bible lesson.

BIBLE text

Exodus 20:1-11 – The vertical commandments

PROPS n things

- PowerPoints from GROW_PP_Ten_wk2 file in Speaker_Materials directory
- The Bible
- A Compass

BEGIN speaking

Show slide ("Part 2: 1-4: Loving God")

BIBLES:

Who brought their Bibles today? Hold them up high! **(Look around)** Awesome! Well, let's not just carry around our Bibles today.... let's use them! Turn to the book of Exodus, Chapter 20. Here, we see God's ten special rules, His specific instructions to us called The Ten Commandments.

We want to not only learn the Ten Commandments, God's Law, but we want to better understand how to apply them to our lives.

RELATIONSHIPS:

The Ten Commandments are all about relationships. The whole Bible can be boiled down to one word--relationships. It focuses on two types of relationships—our relationship with God and our relationship with other people. From Genesis to the end of the book of Revelation, the Bible focuses on how to have a super close relationship with our holy God and out of that relationship how we can have healthy and holy relationships with others. If that is the focus on the Bible it is no surprise that the Ten

Commandments are all about relationships as well. The first four have to do with **our relationship with God** and the last six deal with **our relationship with others**.

(Hold up the compass) The Ten Commandments are a compass. This compass shows us the way we should go. Isaiah 30:21 says that God says, **"You will hear your Teacher's voice behind you. You will hear it whether you turn to the right or the left. It will say, 'Here is the path I want you to take. So walk on it.'**" Do we want to know how to please God? Sure we do! The Ten Commandments are a good place to start. This compass leads to blessing as well. Psalm 19:11 says in keeping God laws there is great reward. We all should want the blessing of God on our lives.

COMMANDMENTS #1 & #2:

Show slide ("1. Put God First")

The first commandment stated in verse 3 of Exodus 20 says this: "You shall have no other gods before me." In other words, **"Put God first."** Nothing is to be placed before God – no person, thing, way of thinking, or purpose. Deuteronomy 6:4 — the verse that is considered the greatest statement in the Bible by both the Jews and by Jesus — says it this way:

Show slide ("Deuteronomy 6:4-5")

"The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Make God your number one priority. Love him with a passion. Love him with your emotions, with your spirit, with your physical strength. Love him with how you spend your time, love Him with your good choices, and how well you treat other people. Love Him with everything you have, and love him more than anything or anyone else.

CHOICES:

When you think about it, this first commandment is really all about choices. You know, our lives are full of choices. We make choices on how we dress, what we eat, who we hang out with, what we decide to learn, and so much more. Will we live our lives for ourselves? For someone else? For an idea or a dream? Or will we live our lives for God? Will we let God be God, or will we let someone or something else crowd its way to the top spot in our choices and in our hearts?

Show slide ("2. Worship God Only")

The second commandment goes right along with the first commandment:

"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below."

In other words, “**worship God only.**” With these two commands so closely tied together, I think God wanted to send a strong and loud message that He wants to be number one in our lives. He wants our thoughts, He wants our actions, He wants our words – He wants it all. God put these two commands in place for our benefit. He knows that we can easily stray and get focused on other things. We can let the distractions and the temptations of this world get in the way of our relationship with Him.

PINOCCHIO ANALOGY:

Show slide (“Pinocchio”)

Has anyone ever seen the movie or read the story of Pinocchio? The inventor and gentle old woodcarver, Gepeto, creates a wooden puppet called Pinocchio. The old woodcarver wishes on a star for a son. All he wants is a real boy of his own that he can love, and who can love him back. The Blue Fairy brings the wooden puppet to life, but he must earn the right to be real by proving that he is brave, truthful, and unselfish. But, even with the help of Jiminy, a cricket who the fairy assigns to be Pinocchio's conscience, the puppet goes astray. He joins a puppet show instead of going to school, he lies instead of telling the truth, and he travels to Pleasure Island instead of going straight home. Yet, when Pinocchio discovers that a whale has swallowed Gepeto, the puppet single-mindedly journeys into the ocean and selflessly risks his life to save his father, thereby displaying that he deserves to be a real boy.

EXPLAIN ANALOGY:

If we were to relate this story to our spiritual life, God is Gepetto. He created you. He made you, and fashioned everything about you with His own hands. Like Gepetto invented Pinocchio, God invented you and me. He desires to have a loving relationship with us, but instead, we go off and willingly get lured into all kinds of temptations; temptations that compete for our attention and keep us from being home with our Father, the One who made us. As believers, we don't have Jiminy Cricket as our conscience, but we do have something better – the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our moral guide; it alerts us when we are putting other people, activities or things above God. It's our job to listen to the Holy Spirit and then make a correction if needed.

In the end, Pinocchio does a selfless and brave thing that eventually turns him from a wooden puppet into a real boy. It's our faith – our faith and trust in Jesus that turns us from a someone who is lost but now is found. Like the sinful puppet gone astray from Gepetto, we have gone astray from God. Once we accept Jesus and follow Him, we appreciate who made us and who really loves us, and we want to love them in return. God is our Father. He deserves our love, our loyalty, our time, and our trust. And what does He give us in return? Life! True and lasting life with the Father. Until we put God first and worship no one or anything but Him, we are no different than a wooden puppet on strings.

It's very possible for us to worship the things we do, or the people we watch on T.V. and in the movies, or technology (iPods, cell phones, gaming devices). If we are not careful, these things can become mini-gods in our lives. The way you can tell if they have been placed ahead of God is when you can't picture yourself living without them. God knows that we were not designed to worship anything or anyone but Him, and if we do, it can hurt us. He puts these two commands in place for us and for our own good. He knows what is best for us, and He knows that we are all about "us", focusing our attention and time on "us," we get lost and start looking like, acting like people who don't love God.

COMMANDMENTS #3:

Show slide("3. Use God's name with respect")

Let's look at the third commandment from Exodus:

"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."

It's important for us to never use God's name carelessly, as if His name is no big deal. It is not right to throw God's name around so casual like, or to attach His name to your angry words. We need to only refer to God in the holiest of ways, with great fear, respect and honor. Today, it's common for kids your age to say, "Oh my God" or "OMG" on texting. This is an example of using God's name carelessly.

But there is another way we misuse the name of God; when we use His name to get something we want. Let me give an example. Let's say that you are in a store with your grandmother and you see something on the shelf that you really, really want. Perhaps is a new video game, or a new clothes outfit or a toy, and you say to your grandmother, "Oh Granny Gran.... could you please buy me this? Mom said it was okay." You know full well that you had never talked to your mom about it. You're just trying to manipulate your grandmother to buy that "thing" for you by bringing the approval of your mother into it. That's not right.

We do the same thing with God. We want something and we convince ourselves that God would surely want us to have it. We attach His name to something that we have no business attaching His name to. For instance, we might say something like, "Well, God wants me to have a cell phone because He wants me to be able to get a hold of my mom whenever I need to be picked up after practice." God likely doesn't care if you have a cell phone and you should never bring His name into it to strengthen your case.

COMMANDMENTS #4:

Show slide("4. Remember God's Sabbath")

The fourth and last commandment we are going to cover today that teaches us how to love God is found in verse 8:

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”

How many of you take at least one day during the week and just totally “veg” and do nothing – resting your mind, resting your body, thinking about God. Remember that the fourth commandment is instruction for us to “love God.” How can we love God if we never take some time to think about Him, talk to Him, and listen to Him? God knows best, and He knows us best. He knows that it is not good for our bodies to never rest and take a break. God set the example when He created the world and man in six days, and on the seventh day, He rested.

WHAT THE SABBATH LOOK LIKE:

What God is commanding us to do is work hard during the week... but then take a day of rest. Now, in reality, that rest day does not have to be a Sunday. Your Sabbath can be any day of the week, but generally, it works better when your whole family decides on the same day so that they are not dragging you around on your Sabbath while they are doing errands and activities. Here is what the day of rest should look like:

1. It's a day where we stop creating, playing and doing, and appreciate what God has created, what He's done in the world and is doing in us. (Genesis 2)
2. It's a day where we lay our burdens down and rest. Even chores and homework should not be part of a day of rest. (Jer. 17; Exodus 20; Deut. 5) Work to get those things done before Sunday comes.
3. It's a day where we get together as believers and worship with others. That is what we are doing here, attending church and worshiping God. (Leviticus 23)
4. It's a day where we should show God that we love, honor, and respect His authority. (Psalm 89:7, Habakkuk 2:20)
5. It should be a day of happiness in our hearts, a day which we push out any of our own thoughts and fill our minds with the thoughts and words of God. (Isaiah 56,58)
6. It's a time of healing. Perhaps you got a cut, a bruise, or a sprain. Our maybe your heart was wounded by a mean kid at school. The Sabbath is a time to just heal and bring God into our healing. (Matthew 12; Mark 1,3; Luke 13,14)
7. The Bible says that on the Sabbath, we should not buy or sell anything. (Nehemiah 13). That sounds weird, but imagine what that means. You have to get in the car and go around to all kinds of stores. You might be tempted to want something, and so you pester you mom for it. She gets angry or frustrated

with you. The day ends with everyone tired and grumpy. That's not a day of rest. In the end, you encouraged others to work on the Sabbath to serve you and your needs.

8. The Sabbath is a time to do good and visit and comfort the sick, maybe visit the elderly at a nursing home, or serve others at a homeless shelter. (John 5)
9. The Sabbath is a time of prayer. (Acts 16:13) You should spend time in your room with God's Word and pray to God. Pray that He would show you what His Word means. Pray for your friends. Pray for your family. Pray for your leaders, teachers and coaches. When you start directing your prayers towards others, you will find that there is not enough time in the day to get through all of your prayers. God will honor those kinds of prayers.

Perhaps there is something that you need to give up in order to protect your day of rest. Is it a sport? Is it a hobby? Do you need to manage your time better and make sure that you get all your chores and homework done before Sunday? Whatever you need to do to get the most out of your day of rest, remember that you are doing it as an act of love for God.

SUMMARY:

Show slide ("The First Four")

Let's summarize what we've learned today. We love God when:

1. We put God first
2. When we worship God only
3. When we use God's name with respect
4. And when we remember God's Sabbath

We need God's help to give us strength and courage to make some changes in our lives, and form some new habits. When we obey these commandments, we are showing our love for God.

Show slide ("Take-Away Point")

Our Action Hero, Growbod wants us to say today's Take-Away Point together: **"The first four Commandments teach us how to love God."**

If you think about the first four commands as having to do with our vertical relationship with God, God is showing us right in His commands how we can Love Him.

EVALUATE their understanding

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 2 - EVALUATE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.

(While small groups are going, use this time to check your notes, reset your props, and walk around to some of the groups and listen to how it's going.)

CHALLENGE them

3rd Segment: (5 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

The intent with this section is to **encourage and challenge the kids** to take a spiritual step forward this week. We want them to stop and think, make better choices, form new habits and bring God into their everyday world. This is a great time to speak from your heart and then pray for them.

PROPS n things

- PowerPoints from GROW_PP_Ten_wk2 file in Speaker_Materials directory
- Ice Cream Sundae with whip cream and a red cherry on top

BEGIN speaking

Next week, we are going to go over the last six commandments of God's Law. I want to challenge you to go to Exodus 20 this week and read those six commandments, starting in verse 9. The first four commandments show us how to love God, but these last six commandments show us how we can love others. We are not only going to memorize them, but we are going to talk about why they are so important. We're going to talk about how each of us can break those laws so easily if we are not careful. Remember, the Law is there to simply show us who we really are, so that Jesus can show us who He really is and what He really did for us on the cross.

OUR SPOTLIGHT VERSE:

Show Slide ("Spotlight Verse")

You'll be going over this in your small groups in just a moment, but our verse we are learning and memorizing this month is a little longer. The good news is that we have all month to work on it. Jesus is talking in this verse. Let's read it together:

"I have not come to abolish the Law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." ~Matthew 5:17 (NIV)

Show Slide ("Ice Cream Sundae")... or walk out with the Ice Cream Sundae and pick up the cherry

How many like a cherry on top of their Ice Cream Sundae? It's like that perfect last thing to finish off the sundae, bringing the right amount of color and flavor to the

desert. When Jesus came to the earth, He was like that cherry on top of The Law. The job of the cherry on top of the Ice Cream Sundae is not to replace the sundae; it just perfectly completes the Sundae. In the same way, Jesus didn't come to replace the Law (*the commandments*); He came to perfectly complete The Law.

Let's Pray: ***“Dear God, thank You for the Ten Commandments. Your Law teaches us how to put You first above anyone or anything else. You teach us how important it is to worship You alone, and to only use Your name in a good and respectful way. Even choosing to rest on Sunday is a way of showing our Love for You. We know how weak we are, Lord. We know we are prone to forget You and to wander away. Keep us close to You, and give us such a deep love for You that we will not only read Your commands, not only memorize Your commands, but do Your commands. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.”***

Have an awesome week growing in God's Word and following His commands!

ENCOURAGE their walk

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 3 - ENCOURAGE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.



SERVICE ORDER

WEEK 2: 1-4: Loving God

NOTES: Meet with the SG leaders before the service. Go over the day's theme, discipline, tickets and answer any questions about small group time. Pray with the team.

GAME TIME:

- **(A/V)** Have an upbeat song ready to go
- "Wrecking Ball": See game for supply list

TUNE TIME: (Sample: Change to reflect real song set)

- Song 1
- Song 2
- Song 3

REMIND TIME:

- **(A/V)** Play Remind Time video
- **(A/V)** Display the Trait-N-Tagline Powerpoint
- Go over GROW – I can allow the Bible to shape my life.

TEACH TIME:

- **(A/V)** Bring up first Powerpoint on screen
- **Engage Them:** Talking about how to memorize the Ten Commands in different ways
- **Teach Them:** Talking about the first four Commandments, focused on *loving God*
- **Challenge Them:** Summary of the lesson, Spotlight Verse, pray with kids

GIVE TIME: (Sample: Change to reflect whatever campaign you're working on)

- Ex. Malaria nets in Africa
- **(A/V)** Bring up goal PowerPoint on screen

CLOSE TIME:

- Announcements, up-coming events, hand out flyers
- Ticket Drawing
- Closing Song: ??
- Keep Groups together: Do Relate Time Sheets until parents' come

EXIT: Distribute Parent Take-Away card directly to parents

I CAN ALLOW
THE BIBLE TO
SHAPE MY LIFE.



Stop at the
Stop Sign,
and wait for further
instruction before
moving to
next segment.

Don't rush it!
Remember,
the goal is not to
just get through it,
but to **get it through**.

Your 2 goals:
relate with them,
reinforce the lesson.

STOP

WEEK 2: 1-4: Loving God

EXPLORE – their opinion

(Hand each child a “Ten Simple Rules” card. Have them use it for the following exercise.)

I'm going to give you some common situations that most of you have or will run into in everyday life. I want you to tell me which of the Ten Commands best matches the situation:

- Your friend takes a piece of candy from the teacher's desk drawer while she's not looking. He hands a piece to you and says, 'It's okay, I do it all the time.' (#8 Do not steal)
- Your parents limit your video game time to just 2 hours a week, and you get angry and throw a fit. (#2 Do not worship idols)
- You visit your friend's house, and they just got a Smart T.V. mounted on their bedroom wall. (#10 Do not want those things that don't belong to you)

Let's look at our cards and say all 10 Commandments together.

EVALUATE – their understanding

Let's find Exodus 20 together. Let's go through verses 1-8, and look at the first four commandments together. (Read from the Bible.)

Can you remember the first four commandments?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) Put no other gods before me | 2) Do not worship any other idols, |
| 3) Don't misuse and abuse my name | 4) Keep the Sabbath holy |

Are the first four Commandments mostly about loving God or loving others? (Loving God)

Raise your hand if I mentioned something that might possibly be an idol in your life:

- Video games • Sports • T.V., movies, or sports stars
- Your image or fashion? (hair, clothes, etc.) • Your school grades? (being a perfectionist, being smart)

What ways can we dishonor God with our words? (Foul language, gossip, angry words, disobedience, words that hurt or put down others, etc.)

There are some good reasons why God wants us to have a day that looks different that all the other days in the week. Repeat after me: 1) “God wants us to focus on Him and His creation.” 2) “He wants us to remember what we are grateful for.” 3) “God knows it is good and healthy to physically rest and quiet our minds” 4) He wants us to connect our world to Him.” 5) He wants us to be refreshed for a new week.)

STOP



GRADES
1-3

EXPLORE
their opinion
EVALUATE
their understanding
ENCOURAGE
their walk

**I CAN ALLOW
THE BIBLE TO
SHAPE MY LIFE.**



Encourage the kids to take a practical **ACTION** step in their faith journey this week.

Help them memorize this month's **Spotlight Verse.**

Prepare to Give is for children's programs that take an offering.

ENCOURAGE – their walk

How many of you would be willing to take my challenge to read Exodus 20 this month, and memorize the Ten Commandments? We learned today that the first four Commandments are about loving God. Will you take the challenge with me to read about the last six commandments, which are about loving others? Have your parents help you look up Exodus 20 if you have trouble.

Let's pray: **"Dear God, thank You for the first 4 Commandments, which teach us how to love You. We learned that you are the only God. You are the creator of everything. You are a jealous God; You want us to Yourself, because you know what is good for us. We are prone to wander and forget You if we don't stay close to You, and that would be harmful to us. You want us to hold your Name is the highest regard, and honor and respect Your name always. Show us all the good things that come from taking one day out of the week to just rest our minds, our bodies and our emotions. We love You, Lord. It's in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."**



GROW Action Card #4 says, **"Ask your mom or dad to take you to a Christian bookstore and help you pick out a kids' devotional book that fits you."** A devotional book is a little word or thought each day that helps you know God better, and how you fit into His big story.

MEMORIZE – God's Word



SPOTLIGHT VERSE:

"I have not come to abolish the Law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." ~Matthew 5:17 (NIV)

The word "abolish" means to put an end to. Jesus is saying in this verse that He didn't come to put an end to the Law; He came to complete the Law and make it complete. Believing that Jesus is the son of God, and accepting His free gift of love and grace is the "new way" that He wants us to grab onto.

PREPARE TO GIVE – (take cue from host or storyteller)

When people talk about what kind of person you are, you should hope that one of the things they talk about is your giving. "Giving" people are not selfish. They don't think of themselves first.... they think of others first.

The next time a friend spills their drink, quickly offer yours.
The next time some is short a quarter in the lunch line, give them your quarter without asking for it back.
The next time someone forgets their lunch, be quick to share your lunch with them.

Let's pray: **"Dear God, bless this offering today. Use it to change a life. In Jesus' name, Amen."**