

Topic: The Ten Commandments – No Idols

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: “You shall not make for yourself an idol...” (Exodus 20:4a).

Focus: The second commandment is that man should not make or bow down to any idols.

Practical Application: An idol is a graven image, an object such as a statue, that is worshipped as a god or in place of God. We should not make any such statues and we should never worship any idols as a god or instead of God. Tell the story in Exodus 32 of the golden calf being worshipped by the children of Israel and how angry that made God, and Moses. Point out how terrible it is that after all that God had done to take care of them, the people worshipped that golden calf and called it their god.

Intermediate:

Verses: “You shall not make for yourself an idol...” (Exodus 20:4a).
“You shall not bow down to them, and you shall not serve them; for I, Jehovah your God, am a jealous God...” (Exodus 20:5a).

Focus: The second commandment is that man should not make or bow down to any idols. Our God is jealous over us and He does not want us to serve or worship anything else but Him.

Practical Application: The Bible tells us that God is jealous over us. To be jealous over us means that God loves us and wants us to love and worship only Him. He does not want anything to replace Him in our hearts. This is why we cannot worship idols, because they replace God. Ask the children to consider how they would feel if someone that they love and who loves them (for example, their parents) one day decided they were going to replace them with someone else and love that other person instead. How would that make the children feel? That feeling of being replaced is how God feels if we choose to worship something other than God because He is jealous over us.

Advanced:

Verses: “For you shall not worship any other god; for Jehovah, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God” (Exodus 34:14).
“For there is one God and one Mediator of God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).

Focus: The second commandment is that man should not make or bow down to any idols because God is jealous over us. God wants us to contact Him directly rather than “through” an idol. Any person or thing that replaces God in our worship of God can become an idol.

Practical Application: All people were created with a desire to worship God, but some people worship idols because they do not know who God is or how to reach God. They may direct their worship to an idol thinking that the idol brings them close to God. For example, some people may pray to a picture of God or hold a cross when they pray. But the Bible tells us that God wants people to contact Him directly. We do not need any idol, or any object or person, to contact God for us, or to “go between” us and God. For example, your friend can speak to you directly if they need to tell you something. They do not need to speak to a picture of you in order to talk to you or go through another friend to talk to you. This is the same way with God—we can speak to God directly. We do not need to speak to an object or person or through an object or person. Any object or person that “gets in the way” of our worshipping God can become an idol to us.