

## **Topic:** The Ten Commandments – The Greatest Commandments (2)

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 love your neighbor as yourself...” (Lev. 19:18b).

Focus: Use this week to review the commandments 6-10 (love all men by not committing murder, honor marriage, love others by not stealing from them, love others by not lying to them, love others by not coveting what they have). (See lessons #305-310.)

Practical Application: Make the point of checking with the children whether they have been able to keep these commandments. Ask the children questions such as: 1) Have you been able to keep your hands and feet to yourself when you’ve gotten upset with someone? 2) Have you been able to not take anything from anyone without returning it? Remember that taking something that belongs to another person without asking permission is stealing. 3) Have you been able to tell the truth all the time? Remember that avoiding the truth by saying, “I don’t know,” “I don’t remember,” or “I didn’t hear you,” can all be forms of lying.

### **Intermediate:**

Verse: “Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves the other has fulfilled the law” (Romans 13:8).

Focus: Same as elementary level.

Practical Application: Make the point of checking with the children whether they have been able to keep these commandments. Ask the children questions such as: 1) Have you hurt anyone in the past several weeks with your words or with actions, such as hitting or striking another person? 2) Do you have anything or have you “borrowed” anything that does not belong to you and not returned it? If so, this is stealing and it needs to be taken care of, i.e., return it, pay for it, etc. 3) Have you been able to tell the truth all the time? Remember that there are many different ways to lie (intentionally lying, keeping silent, exaggerating, flattery, half-truths, etc.).

### **Advanced:**

Verse: “Love does not work evil to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:10).

Focus: Same as elementary level.

Practical Application: Make the point of checking with the children whether they have been able to keep these commandments. Be specific and direct with your questions, such as: 1) Have you been able to not lose your temper or get angry with others? Have you thought in your heart that someone else was “stupid”? 2) If you have something that you need, have you asked God to provide for you, or have you taken that thing from someone else (either with or without the intent of returning it)? If so, you need to confess and make restitution. 3) Have you been able to tell the truth all the time? Even denying that you have not said or done anything wrong in the past few weeks is not the truth and we always need to confess in order to be truthful to God.