

TEACHER NOTECARDS LEVEL 2, QUARTER C—
THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO

Use these Teacher Notecards as a reference when teaching *Explore Scripture*. Choose the outline form or narrative form based on your teaching style and preference.*

Print on paper or cardstock. Fold in half, then fold again along the gray line. This will create a two-sided, notecard-sized piece for you to hold in your hand.

*The narrative form has been edited to fit on these cards. Please see the full *Explore Scripture* sections of each lesson for more interactivity, application, and content.

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Big Idea: **The Ten Commandments help people know what God is like.**

Exodus 19:1—20:21 [outline form]

Intro: *God gave Moses Ten Commandments to show His people how to live.*

Ask: *Why is it important to keep the Ten Commandments today?*

1. God had rescued His people from Egypt. It was time to give them good rules to live by.

- *God led them to Mount Sinai.* Exodus 19:1-2
- *The people agreed to obey God* 19:8
- *God told them to prepare to receive His Word* 19:10-24

2. God gave Moses Ten Commandments (picture 2C.1). The first four tell how to love and honor God.

- *1—The LORD is the only true God* 20:3
- *2—Worship nothing or no one but God* 20:4
- *3—Respect God's name* 20:7
- *4—Rest on the Sabbath day.* 20:8

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3. The remaining six commandments tell how to love and respect people (picture 2C.2).

- *5—Respect and honor your parents.* 20:12
- *6—Do not murder* 20:13
- *7—Keep the marriage vow (promise) holy.* 20:14
- *8—Do not steal.* 20:15
- *9—Do not lie* 20:16
- *10—Do not covet. (Do not want what doesn't belong to you.)* 20:17

Conclusion: *God's Word shows us the best way to live. The Ten Commandments help people know what God is like.*

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Big Idea: **The Ten Commandments help people know what God is like.**

Exodus 19:1—20:21 [narrative form]

Intro: *God gave Moses Ten Commandments to show His people how to live.*

Ask: *Why is it important to keep the Ten Commandments today?*

When God's people left Egypt, God helped them leave behind slavery, false gods, and Egyptian rules. God knew that His people needed some good rules. He told Moses to lead His people and camp beside a mountain called Mount Sinai. Then the LORD gave Moses special words to invite the Israelites to be His people.

God told Moses to have the people wash up. They had two days to get ready. On the third day, God said that He would come down to the top of Mount Sinai in the form of a cloud, and they would hear His voice.

God is very powerful. He did not want His power to hurt any of His people. He told them not to go near Mount Sinai or to touch it. Everyone agreed to follow the rule. On the third day, the people were ready to see God.

God came down to Mount Sinai. Smoke and fire sprang from the mountaintop.

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The whole mountain seemed to shake like an earthquake. Then the sound of trumpets grew louder and louder.

Moses spoke to God. When God answered, His words sounded like thunder. Then God called Moses to climb up the mountain. When Moses reached the mountaintop, God gave him ten commands (picture 2C.1). God told Moses that these were rules that He wanted the people to live by and obey:

1—The LORD is the only true God. 2—Worship nothing or no one but God. 3—Respect God's name. 4—Rest on the Sabbath day.

(picture 2C.2) These first four commandments tell how to love and honor God. The next six commandments tell how to love and respect people:

5—Respect and honor your parents. 6—Do not murder. 7—Keep the marriage vow (promise) holy. 8—Do not steal. 9—Do not lie. 10—Do not covet. (Do not want what doesn't belong to you.)

God did not give the rules to make life difficult or hard. He gave us rules because He wants us to love Him and to love others. To live the best life possible, God's people need to keep His rules.

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to trust Him—period!**

1 Kings 18:1-39 [outline form]

Intro: *Elijah staged a contest to prove that the LORD is the one true God.*

Ask: *Why do people trust in things other than God?*

1. God told Elijah the time of famine was ending. God would send rain.

- *Elijah went to tell King Ahab* 1 Kings 18:2
- *Ahab insulted Elijah and his God* 18:17
- *Elijah was indignant at all the false gods and their worship* 18:18
- *Elijah summoned the people to Mount Carmel* 18:19

2. Elijah set up a contest between himself, a prophet of the LORD, and the 850 priests of Baal and Asherah.

- *Elijah told the people to choose whom they would follow (picture 2C.3)* . . . 18:21
- *Elijah outlined the challenge—set up two identical altars* 18:22-24
- *The one who set fire to the altar—Baal or the LORD—was God* 18:25

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3. The priests of Baal called on their “god” to light the fire.

- *They called on Baal from morning to noon, but nothing happened* 18:26
- *Elijah taunted their inability to “reach” Baal* 18:27
- *The priests tried harder and harder, but no one heard them* 18:28-29

4. Elijah dramatically demonstrated the power of the LORD.

- *Elijah drenched his altar with four large jars of water* 18:33
- *He had the people soak the altar three times* 18:34
- *Elijah called upon God* 18:35-37
- *God’s fire came down and consumed the altar (picture 2C.4)* 18:38
- *The people saw this and believed* 18:39

Conclusion: *God is the only true God and His power is mighty! Only He is worthy of following—and this is the first commandment.*

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to trust Him—period!**

1 Kings 18:1-39 [narrative form]

Intro: *Elijah staged a contest to prove that the LORD is the one true God.*

Ask: *Why do people trust in things other than God?*

God’s rules are very important. Nothing is more important than obeying and trusting in the one true God. Elijah commanded King Ahab, “Bring the people to Mount Carmel, I have a message from God.”

Many people of Israel came, including the 850 prophets of the false gods (picture 2C.3)! Elijah announced, “People of Israel, the LORD wants you to decide who you will serve. If you believe the LORD is God, follow Him alone; but if you believe Baal is god, then follow him.

“We will build two altars; one for the LORD, one for Baal. We will each place a bull offering upon the altar. We will call upon the God we trust to bring the fire needed to burn our offering. You call upon Baal, I’ll call upon the LORD.”

Once their altar was built and the bull offering was in place, the 850 prophets

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cried to their false gods, from morning until noon. But nothing happened.

Elijah knew their gods were not real. “Maybe if you yelled louder? Maybe your gods are busy and cannot hear you. Your gods must be away on a trip or asleep or something!” They cried louder and still nothing! Some prophets cut themselves, thinking their gods would notice and come to help them, but still . . . nothing happened.

When evening came, Elijah prepared his altar to the LORD. Then he said to the people, “Go, fill four large jars of water and pour the water over the wood and the offering.” The people did as he asked. “Do it again,” Elijah said, and they did. And a third time Elijah had them pour water. Twelve large jars of water had been poured over the altar; now it was so wet it would be impossible to burn!

Elijah stepped forward for all to hear as he prayed, “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known today that You are God. O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that You are the one true God.”

At that very moment, fire fell from the sky (picture 2C.4). It was so hot that the offering, the wood, the rocks, and the water were all burned away. When the people saw this they fell to their knees and cried, “It is true—the LORD is God! The LORD—He is the one true living God!” On that day, the people knew their pretend gods were false and could do nothing.

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to worship Him.**

Exodus 32 [outline form]

Intro: *The Hebrew people turned from the LORD to worship a false god.*

Ask: *What things do people make more important than God?*

1. God's people had grown tired waiting for Moses to come down the mountain.
 - *They wanted gods they could see like the Egyptians had.* Exodus 32:1
 - *Aaron told them to give him their gold earrings.* 32:2
 - *Aaron made a golden calf and an altar.* 32:4-5
 - *The people worshiped the golden calf (picture 2C.5)* 32:5-6
2. God saw what His people were doing. He became very angry.
 - *God told Moses to return to His people* 32:7
 - *God threatened to destroy everyone but Moses* 32:10
 - *Moses spoke in the people's defense, and God relented* 32:11-14

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3. Moses saw what the people were doing, and he also became very angry.
 - *Moses threw down the stone tablets, breaking them (picture 2C.6)* 32:19
 - *Moses gave the people a chance to repent* 32:26
 - *He punished the people for their sin.* 32:27-28
4. Moses knew that God would also punish the people for sinning.
 - *Moses said he would take the punishment for their sins* 32:30
 - *God told Moses that people must pay for their own sins.* 32:33
 - *God's people suffered a plague for what they had done* 32:35

Conclusion: *God is a jealous God—He wants us to worship Him only. This is the second commandment.*

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to worship Him.**

Exodus 32 [narrative form]

Intro: *The Hebrew people turned from the LORD to worship a false god.*

Ask: *What things do people make more important than God?*

Moses was excited to share the Ten Commandments—the wonderful ways God meant for everyone to live. God had given him the Ten Commandments written on two stone tablets! Then God warned him that something terrible had gone wrong in the Israelite camp. Moses hurried down from the mountain with the tablets in his hands.

God's second commandment says we should not worship idols. That means worshipping someone or something other than God. And this was exactly what the people were doing. Moses found the people worshipping a golden calf (picture 2C.5). They had made the calf with their own hands. They weren't worshipping and thanking the true God. How could the Israelites make up such a false god and worship it?

When Moses saw the people worshipping the statue, he burned with anger and

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threw down the tablets (picture 2C.6). They broke to pieces on the ground. When people break God's laws, He is right to be angry and hate our sins. God is holy and perfect.

Moses asked each person to make a choice. He said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." The people who did not come were punished for their sins. But the people who came to Moses wanted to stop doing wrong and start doing right.

Moses knew he had to do something more. The people needed to be right with God again. Moses loved the people, and he knew that even though the people were very sorry, they were still guilty of breaking God's second commandment. What could Moses do next about their sins? He told them, "Perhaps I can find a way to pay for your sins." Then he went back to the LORD and prayed, "Please forgive their sins—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written." Moses was offering to be punished for everybody else's sins. God told Moses, "No, everyone will be responsible for his or her own sins."

Still, God was loving and merciful. He listened to Moses' prayers and gave the people another chance. He told Moses to come up the mountain again to receive another copy of the Ten Commandments. They could start over again.

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to honor His name.**

Exodus 34; Leviticus 22:31-33 [outline form]

Intro: *God's name is holy, set apart for His own special use.*

Ask: *Why do you think God's name is so important?*

1. God told Moses His name (picture 2C.7).
 - *God is "I AM" and "LORD" Leviticus 22:31*
 - *God's name should be acknowledged as holy. 22:32*
 - *He is our God 22:33*
2. God gave Moses a second set of commandments.
 - *God again announced His name. Exodus 34:5*
 - *God is compassionate and gracious 34:6*
 - *God made a covenant with His people. 34:10*

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3. Moses spent time in God's presence.
 - *Moses' face was radiant from speaking with God (picture 2C.8). 34:29*
 - *The people were afraid of God's radiance 34:30*
 - *Moses' face shone after every time he spoke with God 34:34*

Conclusion: *God is holy and perfect, so His name is holy and perfect. We must use God's name with reverence and respect—this is the third commandment.*

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to honor His name.**

Exodus 34; Leviticus 22:31-33 [narrative form]

Intro: *God's name is holy, set apart for His own special use.*

Ask: *Why do you think God's name is so important?*

After God brought His people out of Egypt, He led them to Mount Sinai. We have learned that God is the one true God, that we must not worship anyone or anything other than God. God's third command is to not use God's name in vain. That means we are to honor His name and we should never use His name in the wrong way. God's name means He is holy. His name means He created all things. His name means love. His name means LORD. His name means "I Am." No one else can have God's name.

When God gave His people these special rules to obey, He made sure they knew the rules were given by God Himself. On Mount Sinai, He announced to Moses, "I am the LORD."

God told Moses, "Tell the people they must keep My commands and obey them. Do not treat My holy name like it is not special. Do not use it the wrong way.

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The people must treat Me as holy. Again remind them that I brought them out of Egypt so that I could be their God."

God was with Moses as He told Moses His commands (picture 2C.7). God's holiness is bright like the sun. In fact God wouldn't let Moses look directly at His face because His brightness, called His glory, is so bright it would have killed Moses. God's glory is so bright that just by spending time with God, Moses' face shone with a small bit of God's glory (picture 2C.8).

The people were excited when they saw Moses coming down from Mount Sinai. This time they ran up to meet him, but when they saw his face they became frightened and backed away!

"Why are all the people afraid?" Moses wondered. And the people said, "Your face is so bright like the sun, we cannot look at you."

Moses quickly covered his face with a veil and then the people came to listen as he told them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai. God's glory was shining on his face. That's how magnificent God is. God's name reflects His glory.

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to set apart one day each week as special for Him.**

Mark 2:23—3:6 [outline form]

Intro: *Jesus explained that the Sabbath was made for people.*

Ask: *Why would God want us to set aside one day for rest and for Him?*

1. One Sabbath day, Jesus was outside with His disciples.

- *Jesus' disciples picked grain and ate it* Mark 2:23
- *The Pharisees claimed the men were breaking the law.* 2:24
- *Jesus explained they were not breaking God's Law (picture 2C.10)* . . . 2:25-26
- *The Sabbath was made for people, not the other way around* 2:27
- *Jesus can overrule man-made traditions.* 2:28

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2. Another Sabbath day, Jesus was in the synagogue.

- *A man was there with a withered hand.* 3:1
- *The people wondered if Jesus would heal on the Sabbath.* 3:2
- *Jesus asked "Is it lawful to do good or evil on the Sabbath?"* 3:4
- *Jesus was distressed at their stubborn hearts* 3:5
- *Jesus healed the man's hand* 3:5

Conclusion: *Jesus showed us the best way to honor God on the Sabbath. We should set aside a day to restore our bodies, our minds, and our spirits—this is the fourth commandment.*

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to set apart one day each week as special for Him.**

Mark 2:23—3:6 [narrative form]

Intro: *Jesus explained that the Sabbath was made for people.*

Ask: *Why would God want us to set aside one day for rest and for Him?*

One Sabbath day while Jesus was on earth, He and His disciples walked through a field. This field had grain growing in it. While they walked, the disciples became hungry (picture 2C.10). They picked some stalks of grain and rubbed them between their hands to get to the grain seeds. Then they ate the grain.

The Pharisees were outraged. "Your disciples have sinned," they said to Jesus. "They are working on the Sabbath." These Pharisees had followed rules that said people couldn't even prepare a meal on the Sabbath. By this time, God's people had made up many laws about what people could and could not do on the Sabbath. These were not God's laws—they were man-made laws.

Jesus told the Pharisees, "Once, David and his friends were so hungry they needed something to eat. David went into the house of God and took the holy bread

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that only the priests are supposed to eat." Then Jesus asked, "Why was it okay for David to do this, but it is not okay for my disciples to eat grain?"

The Pharisees did not answer. They did not want to say that King David had done wrong. They could not answer without saying that Jesus was right. So they just kept their mouths shut.

Jesus knew their thoughts, so He said, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Besides, I am the Son of Man, and I am Lord of the Sabbath." Jesus said this so it was clear to all that He claimed to be God.

On another Sabbath day, Jesus went to the synagogue and saw a man with a shriveled hand. The Pharisees watched closely to see if Jesus would work on the Sabbath and heal him. Jesus knew their thoughts. They thought keeping their man-made laws was more important than helping others. He challenged them by asking, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" Again the Pharisees did not answer. Then Jesus told the man with the shriveled hand to reach out his hand. Everyone was amazed to see that his hand was completely well! Jesus had proved He is Lord of the Sabbath with His healing power.

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to treat parents with great respect.**

Genesis 47-48 [outline form]

Intro: *Joseph honored his father, Jacob, even when he was very old.*

Ask: *What are ways you can honor your parents?*

1. Joseph had reunited with his brothers and his father, Jacob (picture 2C.11).
 - *Joseph told his brothers what to say to Pharaoh* Genesis 46:33
 - *Pharaoh gave Jacob's family good land for livestock.* 47:6
 - *Joseph introduced his father to Pharaoh.* 47:7
 - *Joseph provided for his father and his family* 47:11-12
2. Joseph honored his father and made him a promise.
 - *Jacob became old and knew he would die soon.* 47:29
 - *Jacob asked his son to bury him outside of Egypt* 47:30
 - *Joseph promised his father he would* 47:30-31

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3. Joseph brought his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, to Jacob (picture 2C.12).
 - *Jacob adopted Joseph's sons as his own* 48:5
 - *Jacob wanted to bless Joseph's sons* 48:9
 - *Joseph brought his sons forward and bowed before his father* 48:12-13
 - *Jacob gave the greater blessing to the younger son* 48:14
 - *Joseph accepted his father's blessing* 48:20

Conclusion: *By honoring our parents, we also learn to honor and respect God. This is the fifth commandment.*

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to treat parents with great respect.**

Genesis 47-48 [narrative form]

Intro: *Joseph honored his father, Jacob, even when he was very old.*

Ask: *What are ways you can honor your parents?*

God had blessed Joseph, and now he lived in Egypt and served the Pharaoh. In fact, Pharaoh had made Joseph second in command of all of Egypt! Joseph had been living in Egypt a long time when he finally reunited with his father, Jacob. They were so happy to see each other that for a long time they couldn't even speak! They just hugged each other and cried (picture 2C.11).

Pharaoh had promised to let Joseph's family live anywhere they wanted, but he also didn't want them making trouble with his own people, the Egyptians. They settled in Goshen, the beautiful land where they could live in peace and raise their flocks! Joseph honored his father, Jacob, while still being a good servant to Pharaoh.

When Jacob became older, he knew he would die soon. "Bring my son, Joseph,

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to me," he said. Joseph went to his father, and he brought his two sons with him. When Joseph saw his father, he bowed low to the ground—this was a sign of great respect. Jacob was pleased that Joseph had honored him, and he wanted to bless Jacob's sons and make sure they would inherit the lands and possessions of the Hebrew people. Jacob knew that Joseph and his sons would honor God in all they did. (picture 2C.12) But when Jacob went to put his hands out, he crossed them. Jacob's younger son was going to receive the blessing meant for the older son!

"Please, father, this son is my firstborn," Joseph said. Joseph thought his father was confused or couldn't see well, but he was still respectful in correcting him.

Jacob said, "Yes, I know. Both your sons will be great, but your younger son will be greatest. His people will become a group of nations!"

Joseph let Jacob bless his sons, even though he wished his father had blessed them differently. Joseph knew his father was wise and listened to God.

Joseph had many chances to show disrespect to his parents. He could have turned his back on his Jewish upbringing and enjoyed the money and power of ruling Egypt. But Joseph loved God, and he kept God's commandments. He honored and respected his father, Jacob, even though he risked disfavor with Pharaoh.

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to value the lives of all people.**

Exodus 21:12-15; Matthew 5:21-22 [outline form]

Intro: *Jesus said that murder is wrong, but it is also wrong to have angry feelings.*

Ask: *How can words hurt a person?*

1. God handed down a severe punishment for any of His people who murdered someone (picture 2C.13).

- *Any man who kills another should be put to death Exodus 21:12*
- *There is a difference between purposeful and accidental killing 21:13*
- *God does not associate with people who do not respect life 21:14*

2. Jesus related anger and the speaking of hateful words to murder (picture 2C.14).

- *Murder is still against God's law Matthew 5:21*
- *God will judge those who remain angry against others 5:22*
- *Disrespecting other people is similar to disrespecting life 5:22*

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Conclusion: *By controlling our anger and refraining from harmful words, we are respecting others and their lives. By respecting life, we keep the sixth commandment.*

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to value the lives of all people.**

Exodus 21:12-15; Matthew 5:21-22 [narrative form]

Intro: *Jesus said that murder is wrong, but it is also wrong to have angry feelings.*

Ask: *How can words hurt a person?*

Open your Bible to Exodus 21:12-15. When the Lord freed them from Egypt, He also gave His people freedom from the Egyptian laws. God knew they needed rules to live by, and so the Lord gave Moses the Ten Commandments for the people. He gave them rules on how to honor and obey Him—they were to have no idols, and they must use His name with respect. He gave them rules on how to treat others—they should respect their parents and should not murder or harm another person.

This is the sixth commandment from God—He says, “Do not murder.” God also told Moses that the penalty for murder is death. He gave this commandment so people would be careful to protect the lives of other people. God is the one who gives each person life. When you kill a human being on purpose, you have

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taken away God's precious gift of life. God wants us to value the lives of innocent people. He doesn't want people to hurt each other (picture 2C.13).

Turn in your Bible to Matthew 5:21-22. In the New Testament, Jesus said, “You know the rule. You should not murder anyone, but now I say that if you are angry at someone, you will receive the same punishment. If you call someone a name, like, ‘You fool,’ then you will also be punished in the same way.” (picture 2C.14)

Wow! We all need to be careful with our words and how we treat others.

Don't answer aloud, but can you think of a time when you became upset with someone? What did you do? Did you get angry and say a rude thing, or hurt their feelings? If so, you may have broken the sixth commandment. According to Jesus, when we become angry with someone or call someone a hurtful name, we have harmed that person!

God does not want us to murder, and He also does not want us to hurt anyone with angry words. Every one of us has reacted in anger one time or another. We all deserve judgment, and God says the penalty is death! But that's why Jesus died on the cross—He came to forgive our sins so we would not be punished for our angry thoughts and unkind words.

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands husbands and wives to remain faithful to their marriage vows.**

Hosea 1-3 [outline form]

Intro: *God loves His people like a groom loves his bride.*

Ask: *Why is faithfulness in marriage important to God?*

1. God told Hosea that marriage and family were like His relationship to His people (picture 2C.15).

- *God was like the husband, and His people were like His wife Hosea 1:2*
- *Sons and daughters were like the kingdoms of His people 1:4-9*
- *God loves His people and will rescue them 1:11*

2. God continued to contrast His people's unfaithfulness to Him with His faithfulness to them.

- *God warned His people not to be unfaithful 2:2*
- *God's people wanted the riches and comforts of other nations. 2:5*
- *The LORD will pursue His people to win their love 2:14-18*
- *God will love His people like a groom loves His bride 2:19-20*

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3. God commanded Hosea to live out His message.

- *God told Hosea to find his wife and love her like God loves His people. . . . 3:1*
- *Hosea brought his wife home and loved her (picture 2C.16) 3:2-3*
- *God loves His people and will rescue them 3:4-5*

Conclusion: *Because marriage is a picture of God's love for us, husbands and wives should honor the vows they make to each other. This is the seventh commandment.*

2

Big Idea: **The LORD God commands husbands and wives to remain faithful to their marriage vows.**

Hosea 1-3 [narrative form]

Intro: *God loves His people like a groom loves his bride.*

Ask: *Why is faithfulness in marriage important to God?*

An important part of the wedding ceremony is the promise that the bride and groom make to be faithful to each other. It is a promise to God that they will love only each other in an extra special and close way. They promise to help each other when life is happy and easy, but also when life is sad and difficult—no matter what. And they promise to stay married to each other for the rest of their lives. After the wedding, we usually call this promise “being faithful to each other.”

God wanted marriage to be a model of how we are to love Him. He said that His relationship with us is special like the relationship between a husband and his wife (picture 2C.15). God told His people that He is their bridegroom. God told His people that they are His bride. God loves us so much He wants us to be His bride. In fact, God made a promise with the people to be faithful to love them. And God

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has kept this promise ever since, even when the people turned away from Him.

The Bible tells of a man named Hosea. God said to him, “Hosea, I want you to find a wife.” Soon Hosea met a woman named Gomer and they fell in love. Hosea and Gomer were married. On their wedding day they promised God they would stay married and love one another for the rest of their lives. Hosea loved his wife very much.

One day Hosea's wife went away and didn't come home. She had broken her marriage promise. This made Hosea very sad. God told him, “Hosea, find your wife and bring her home. When you married Gomer, you made a promise to Me that you would stay faithful to her.”

Hosea obeyed God and went and found his wife (picture 2C.16). Gomer turned away from doing wrong and went back home to her husband. Hosea forgave her and kept his promise to love and care for her, no matter what.

God says His promise with the people is like a promise between a husband and a wife. He is like a husband who has made a promise to love and care for his wife the rest of her life. God is always faithful to keep His promises. Too often people do not. God says that often people are like Hosea's wife. She didn't keep her promise to be faithful to her husband. She broke God's seventh commandment.

2

Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people not to take things that don't belong to them.**

Genesis 27 [outline form]

Intro: *Jacob took what didn't belong to him—Esau's blessing.*

Ask: *Why is stealing a sin against God?*

1. Jacob and Esau seemed to be always at odds. Esau had traded his birthright to Jacob (picture 2C.17). Now their father, Isaac, was ready to give his blessing to Esau.

- *Isaac told Esau to hunt game and prepare a tasty meal for him . . . Genesis 27:3-4*
- *Isaac wanted to bless Esau before he died. 27:4*
- *Rebekah heard their conversation and called for Jacob 27:5-6*
- *Rebekah planned to trick Isaac into giving Jacob his blessing. 27:8-10*
- *Although afraid of being caught, Jacob obeyed his mother. 27:11-14*

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2. Jacob went to trick his father, Isaac, into giving him the blessing meant for Esau.

- *Jacob's mother dressed him in Esau's clothes and disguised his smooth skin. . 27:15-17*
- *Jacob brought Isaac a tasty meal and asked for his blessing 27:19*
- *Isaac was fooled and gave Jacob his blessing (picture 2C.18) 27:21-27*
- *Isaac said that Jacob's brothers would serve him 27:29*

3. Esau returned with the game and prepared a meal for his father.

- *Isaac realized that Jacob had tricked him 27:35*
- *Esau was very angry and planned to kill Jacob. 27:41*
- *Rebekah sent Jacob away to protect him from his brother 27:43-45*

Conclusion: *Stealing hurts other people and says that we do not trust God to give us what we need. Do not steal—this is the eighth commandment.*

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people not to take things that don't belong to them.**

Genesis 27 [narrative form]

Intro: *Jacob took what didn't belong to him—Esau's blessing.*

Ask: *Why is stealing a sin against God?*

Jacob and Esau were twins who did not always get along. Once, Esau traded Jacob his birthright (his inheritance as firstborn) for a bowl of stew (picture 2C.17)!

God had told Isaac and Rebekah that their younger son, Jacob, would rule over his older twin, Esau. God wanted this to happen. But Rebekah decided that she knew when it should happen. Once Isaac, who was old and had poor eyesight, told Jacob's brother, Esau, to go hunt wild game and cook it for him. Isaac wanted to bless Esau before he died. Isaac's blessing was a prayer for God's favor. It was usually given to the firstborn son.

Rebekah overheard what Isaac told Esau. As Esau left to go hunting, she decided that Jacob should have his father's blessing instead of Esau. She wasn't willing to

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trust God's plan, but was creating her own. She told Jacob to get two young goats from their flock. She made them into a tasty meal that Isaac loved. Jacob did what his mother told him to do, even though he knew it was wrong.

Esau was very hairy, but Jacob was smooth-skinned. Rebekah covered Jacob's neck and hands with goatskins so he would feel like Esau. He also put on his brother's clothes so he would smell like Esau (picture 2C.17). Jacob went into his father's tent and pretended to be Esau. Isaac could not see well, but he felt Esau's hairy hands and Esau's clothes. Jacob and his mother wanted to trick Jacob's father, Isaac, into giving Jacob something that did not belong to him. They were breaking God's rules, and this made God sad.

Isaac asked Jacob, "Are you Esau?" Jacob said "Yes. I am your son Esau." So Isaac gave Jacob the blessing. After Jacob left his father's tent, Esau came back from the hunt. He found out that Jacob had tricked Isaac. He had stolen the blessing meant for Esau. Esau became angry with Jacob for stealing his blessing. He was so angry that Rebekah prepared a bag for Jacob and sent him away. She never saw Jacob again.

Jacob stole the blessing meant for Esau. Stealing is taking from others what is not rightly yours. God's Ten Commandments give us a very clear rule—do not steal.

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to always tell the truth.**

Genesis 12:10-20 [outline form]

Intro: *Abram lied about Sarai being his sister instead of his wife.*

Ask: *Why is lying a sin against God?*

1. Because of a severe famine in the land, Abram went into Egypt (picture 2C.19).
 - *Abram was afraid of being killed over Sarai's beauty Genesis 12:11-12*
 - *Abram told Sarai to lie and say she was his sister 12:13*
2. In Egypt, Abram's lie brought trouble to Pharaoh.
 - *The Egyptian officials took Sarai to become Pharaoh's wife 12:15*
 - *Abram was treated well because they thought he was her brother 12:16*
 - *God made Pharaoh and his family sick because of Sarai 12:17*

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3. Pharaoh knew God was punishing him. He summoned Abram (picture 2C.20).
 - *Pharaoh learned Sarai was Abram's wife 12:18*
 - *Pharaoh knew God was punishing him for trying to marry Sarai 12:19*
 - *Pharaoh sent Abram and Sarai away 12:20*

Conclusion: *Lying causes trouble for ourselves and for those to whom we lie. Because God is truth, lying is directly against God's majestic nature. Do not lie—this is the ninth commandment.*

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to always tell the truth.**

Genesis 12:10-20 [narrative form]

Intro: *Abram lied about Sarai being his sister instead of his wife.*

Ask: *Why is lying a sin against God?*

Abram and Sarai had been living in Canaan, but after a while there was a problem. No rain had fallen, so there was no water to grow food to eat and no water to drink. There was famine everywhere in their country.

Abram and Sarai were desperate and they forgot God's truthful promises to them. So Abram came up with his own plan instead of following God's plan.

"Let's go to Egypt," Abram said. "They will have food. They can grow lots of crops beside the Nile River." So Abram, Sarai, and all their servants traveled from the land of Canaan, the place God had told them to go. They packed everything they owned and moved to Egypt (picture 2C.19).

While they were traveling to Egypt, one thing bothered Abram. His wife, Sarai, was beautiful. Egyptian men might want to marry her, and Abram was afraid that

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those men would kill him so they could marry his wife. So Abram said to Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. When the Egyptians see you, I am afraid that they will say, 'This is his wife.' And then they will kill me and take you away. So let's tell them you are my sister, so that I will not be harmed."

Abram asked Sarai to do something that was wrong—to lie. When they reached Egypt, the Egyptian officials saw that Sarai was very beautiful. They asked Abram, "Who is she?" And he answered, "She is my sister." Sarai agreed and went along with the lie. The officials told their king, the Pharaoh, about Sarai. They brought her to his house. Pharaoh gave Abram sheep, cattle, donkeys, and servants. Pharaoh wanted to marry Sarai. Soon after that, God made Pharaoh and his family sick. Pharaoh was so sick that he could not marry Sarai. Only then did Pharaoh learn the truth that Sarai was Abram's wife.

(picture 2C.20) Pharaoh told Abram, "Why didn't you tell me the truth that Sarai was your wife? Take her! Go away! I want to get well." Abram left in disgrace.

God is very unhappy when anyone lies because lying causes trouble. Abram's lie turned into a mess. It created big problems for many people. Pharaoh became sick because of the lie.

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to be content with what they already have.**

Joshua 6:15—7:26 [outline form]

Intro: *Achan disobeyed God by coveting the spoils of God's victory.*

Ask: *Why does God want us to be content with what we have?*

1. God brought victory for His people against the city of Jericho.

- *Joshua told the people not to take what was devoted to God . . . Joshua 6:18-19*
- *At the shout of the people, Jericho's walls came down (picture 2C.21) . . . 6:20*
- *All the precious items went into God's treasury 6:24*

2. Achan coveted God's treasure and stole some of it.

- *God's anger burned against Israel 7:1*
- *Soldiers were killed in a raid against Ai 7:2-5*
- *Joshua despaired because he knew God was no longer with them 7:6-9*

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3. God told Joshua why He no longer fought for Israel.

- *God explained that someone had sinned against Him 7:11-12*
- *God instructed Joshua to cast lots to reveal the guilty party 7:14-15*
- *Joshua told Achan that telling the truth would glorify God 7:19*
- *Achan confessed to coveting God's treasure (picture 2C.22) 7:20-21*

Conclusion: *Achan was not content with what he had. God wants us to enjoy what He has given us and not spend time desiring what is not ours. This is the tenth commandment.*

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Big Idea: **The LORD God commands His people to be content with what they already have.**

Joshua 6:15—7:26 [narrative form]

Intro: *Achan disobeyed God by coveting the spoils of God's victory.*

Ask: *Why does God want us to be content with what we have?*

God has a word for wanting things that do not belong to you—coveting. He tells us in the tenth commandment not to covet. Since God made us, He knows what we need. God wants us to be content with what we have.

In Bible times, God wanted His people to conquer the city of Jericho. He told Joshua and His people to march around the walls of Jericho once a day for seven days and then seven times on the last day. Then He told them to shout at the wall. The walls of Jericho fell down (picture 2C.21)!

Because this was the first battle in the land that God had given them, He commanded the Israelites not to take anything from Jericho for themselves. God warned them that if anyone coveted anything, they would bring about their own destruction.

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Everything went just as God had told them it would, until one man, Achan, saw the riches of Jericho and he started coveting these things for himself. Achan wanted the beautiful things from Jericho—he was not content with the victory God had given them. Achan took the things he wanted and hid them.

Because God was angry with Achan's sin of coveting, He was not present with them in battle. Thirty-six of Joshua's men were killed in a battle. Joshua was very upset. He had been in charge, and now people were dead because of his orders.

The LORD said to Joshua, "My people have sinned. Someone took something from Jericho. I will not be with you until the things that are taken are destroyed."

The next day, God showed the people that the sin was in the tribe of Judah, in the family of Achan. Joshua confronted Achan, and he confessed to taking God's treasures (picture 2C.22). Joshua sent men to find the treasures in Achan's tent, and they did. Achan was killed and everything he owned was destroyed. After that, God forgave His people and helped them in their battles.

God had given His people a great victory. They had so many reasons to be grateful to God and to be content, but Achan wanted more. God wants His people to be happy with what they have.

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Big Idea: **The Ten Commandments help God's people live to honor Him.**

Mark 12:28-34 [outline form]

Intro: *Jesus summed up the Ten Commandments into two—love God and love others.*

Ask: *How does keeping these two commandments also keep the others?*

1. Jesus was speaking with the religious leaders in the Temple.

- *A teacher heard Jesus' wise answers Mark 12:28*
- *He asked Jesus which commandment was the most important 12:28*

2. Jesus summed up the first four commandments into one.

- *Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength (picture 2C.23). 12:30*
- *Keeping this commandment includes all of the first four commandments*

3. Jesus summed up the other six commandments with the second greatest.

- *Love your neighbor as yourself (picture 2C.24) 12:31*
- *Keeping this commandment includes all of the other six commandments*

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4. The teacher recognized the wisdom of Jesus' answer.

- *These two commands were more important than offerings and sacrifices . . . 12:33*
- *Jesus told the teacher he was close to God's Kingdom 12:34*

Conclusion: *Loving God and loving others is the heart of discipleship. When we do these things, we are keeping God's Ten Commandments and living God's best for our lives!*

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Big Idea: **The Ten Commandments help God's people live to honor Him.**

Mark 12:28-34 [narrative form]

Intro: *Jesus summed up the Ten Commandments into two—love God and love others.*

Ask: *How does keeping these two commandments also keep the others?*

Today we are going to learn what Jesus said were the most important commandments. Jesus was in the Jerusalem Temple, and the religious leaders were asking Him questions. One scribe asked Jesus a question that was important to him.

“Master,” he said. “What is the most important commandment?”

Jesus said, “The most important one is to love God with your whole heart, your whole soul, your whole mind, and your whole strength (picture 2C.23).”

Jesus then said the second most important rule is to love your neighbor as yourself (picture 2C.24). *Who do you think Jesus meant when He talked about neighbors?*

Encourage responses. Our neighbors are anyone we meet, anyone we know, family members, and even people in the grocery store, at the park, or in the classroom.

Everyone is our neighbor.

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Jesus said that there was no greater law than those two. The scribe who asked the question agreed with Him.

“Because you understand what I am saying,” Jesus told him, “you are very close to knowing who I am and getting into heaven.” When the people around Jesus who were trying to trick Him heard this, they didn’t ask any more questions.

Why do these two laws sum up all the Ten Commandments and show us how to live to honor God? Who are we supposed to love? If we love God, will we worship other things? If we love God, will we use His name carefully, with honor? If we love God, will we devote time to worship and rest in Him?

If we love our parents, will we respect and honor them? If we love others, will we value their lives and keep from getting angry at them? If we love each other, will we remain faithful when we marry? If we love others, will we steal from them? If we love others, will we be honest with them? If we love others, will we be happy when they are blessed?

Jesus knew—if you truly love God and others like you love yourself, then you will keep the Ten Commandments! Start with your heart. Decide to love God and others today, and you will live to honor Him. Trust in Jesus and ask Him to help you.

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