

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 1 • Unit 4 • Week 4

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

OBJECTIVE:

The children will learn the Ninth Commandment, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16) and learn reasons why lying is bad.

MATERIALS:

Child's robe
Scarf
Stick (for a shepherds staff)
Stuffed animal or picture (to represent a wolf)

ATTENTION GETTER:

Say: Is that a big, blue bird over there? [The children discover that there is no bird.]

Say: Hey what is that cat doing by the door? [Some children will look and some won't.]

Do: Allow children to comment on the situation. [There's no cat there. You're just saying that. Ask a child to go to the door and check, etc.]

Ask: Don't you believe that I saw it? Why don't you believe me?

Do: Allow children to give reasons they don't believe you. [First you thought you saw a bird, but it wasn't there. Then you saw a cat, and there wasn't any. You didn't tell the truth, etc.]

Ask: Do you think I lied?

Say: I said those things to help start our lesson today. Our lesson is about lying.

Ask: Would you trust a person who doesn't tell the truth? Would you want someone who lies to be your friend?

Ask: Do you think your parents would be happy if you lie? Is lying breaking God's law?

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: Today I am going to tell you a story about someone who did not tell the truth. Listen and see if you can tell me what he did wrong. This story comes from the Bible in 2 Kings 5:1-27.

Read: A paraphrased version of the story or the summary below.

Naaman was a soldier in Syria who had leprosy. [Explain briefly that leprosy was a horrible skin disease.]

A girl from Israel said that she knew someone in Israel who could cure him. Naaman asked his king to write a letter to the king in Israel to see if he could cure him.

The king of Israel couldn't cure him, but Elisha the prophet said he could help. Elisha told Naaman to go and dip himself in the Jordan River seven times. At first Naaman didn't believe he would be cured but he did it anyway and was cured!

Naaman was happy and wanted to pay Elisha for curing him. Elisha didn't want to be paid, so Naaman started back to his home.

Elisha's servant Gehazi thought that Elisha should have taken the money that Naaman offered, so Gehazi went looking for Naaman. Gehazi told Naaman that Elisha changed his mind and that he needed some money and clothes and to help some visitors that had come to stay with him.

Naaman gave Gehazi more money than he asked for and some clothes. Gehazi took the money and clothes and put them in his own house.

When Elisha asked Gehazi where he had been he said, "I haven't been anywhere." Elisha, who was a man of God, knew what Gehazi had done, so he told him that he would be punished. His punishment would be getting the same disease that Naaman had—leprosy!

Ask: Was there someone in this story who did not tell the truth? [Gehazi.]

Ask: What did he lie about? [He lied to Naaman by telling him that his master really wanted money and he lied to Elisha when he told him that he really didn't go anywhere.]

Ask: Was what Gehazi did wrong? What did he do? [He lied and took money that didn't belong to him.]

Say: Not only did Gehazi lie, but he stole too. Lying can lead to other sins.

Ask: What does God say about lying? [Don't lie.]

Say: God says we should not lie. It is one of God's laws that He gave in the Ten Commandments. The Bible says in Exodus 20:16: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Say: This means you should not lie. It is the Ninth Commandment.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Do: Have the children act out the story of "The Boy Who Cried Wolf." One child will be the shepherd. One child will be the wolf. Several children may be sheep. Have several children be townspeople and scatter to far corners of the room. As you tell the story, help the children to act out the story by adding dialog and sound effects.

Read: Once upon a time long ago, there was a town full of people, who were happily working doing their jobs. [Have children pretend they are doing their jobs—street sweeping, washing clothes, storekeeper, blacksmith, builders, etc.]

High up on a hillside near the town there was a little shepherd boy [or girl] who loved to play jokes. He had many sheep to care for. [Encourage the children to baa!]

One day the shepherd boy was bored. He decided to play a joke on the people of the town. He stood on the top of the hill with his sheep and called out "Help! Help! The wolf is after my sheep!" [Have the shepherd boy repeat those words.]

The townspeople dropped what they were doing and rushed up the hill to help the shepherd boy. But when they got to the top of the hill, there was no wolf in sight.

The shepherd boy said "Ha! Ha! I was only joking!"

The townspeople didn't like the boy's joke. They went back to doing their jobs again.

A little while later the shepherd boy decided to play his joke on them again. He stood on the top of the hill with his sheep and called out. "Help! Help! The wolf is after my sheep!" [Have the shepherd boy repeat those words.]

The townspeople ran up the hill to help him again!

The shepherd boy said "Ha! Ha! I was only joking again! I can't believe I fooled you!"

The townspeople didn't like the boy's joke. They became angry about his lies. They finally went back to doing their jobs again.

The shepherd boy stood on the top of the hill with his sheep. Suddenly a huge wolf appeared out of nowhere! The shepherd boy yelled, "Help! Help! The wolf is after my sheep!" [Have the shepherd boy repeat those words.] No one came to help. So he yelled again, "Help! Help! The wolf is after my sheep!" Yet no one came to help.

The townspeople were tired of the shepherd boy's jokes. They said, "I'm not running to help that boy again." "He's lying!"

Meanwhile the wolf scared all of the sheep away! The shepherd boy cried, "Why won't anyone believe me?" [Have the shepherd boy repeat those words.]

The townspeople told the shepherd boy that people who lie repeatedly cannot be trusted. He did not tell the truth at first so they assumed he was not telling the truth when it really mattered.

The shepherd boy learned his lesson and decided to change. He said, "I've learned my lesson. I'll try to never lie again."

The lesson of the story is: Don't lie. Lying is a bad habit and God says, "You shall not bear false witness." [Have all the children repeat the lesson.]

Music:

Sing to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down."

Lying i-is very bad, very bad, makes you sad.
Telling li-ies makes you sad.
Tell the tru-uth!

From a li-ie, stay away, every day, stay away.
Telling lies is not God's way.
Tell the tru-uth!

MEMORY VERSE:

Exodus 20:16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Do: Rehearse the memory verse a few times with the children repeating it. Form a circle. Take a small beanbag or balloon and toss it to one of the children. Have them try to say the verse or as much of the verse as they can and then toss the bag to someone else. Give everyone a turn.

family activity

THE POINT:

The children have learned the Ninth Commandment, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Exodus 20:16) and learned reasons why lying is bad.

ASK ME...

What does it mean to bear false witness?
What was the lesson of the shepherd boy who cried "wolf"?
Why is lying such a bad thing?
Is lying one of the Ten Commandments? Which one?
How can a lie lead to other problems?
What lesson did Gehazi learn?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Play the following game together. Take turns asking "What would you do if...":

- ...you saw your best friend steal something? What would you say if a grownup asked you about it?
- ...you took a cupcake off the plate. Mom asks, "Who ate the cupcake? I was making these for the church potluck."
- ...you were angry with a friend and stuck out your tongue at him. Your friend tells on you. What do you say?
- ...you were talking in class, and the teacher asks, "Who's talking when I'm talking?"

This game stresses that lying is breaking God's Ninth Commandment and leads to bad habits and more sinning. It hurts you and others, and brings unhappiness. Make up other "What would you do if..." questions.

Instructions: Cut the strip off the bottom of this page. You will see this week's memory verse on the back. After your child has learned the verse, glue the two ends together, forming a link of a paper chain. Each lesson's memory verse will add a new link to their chain of Bible knowledge.

-----cut along dotted line-----

(Teacher's note: please write the memory verse on the back of this page at the bottom.)