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The Ten Commandments

Scripture: Exodus 19:1-20:21

Theme: God's law shows us His character and our need for a Savior

Nursery (Ages 0-2)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

Lesson Overview: God's Love for Us! "God loves you so much!" (Repeat softly.) God can talk to us through anyone, even a donkey! (Show a toy donkey or hold up your hand.) God always listens and helps in the way He wants. "You're loved, just like a donkey!" (Gentle smile.) Praise God for His big love!

Bible Story

God's Kind Donkey

Once, a man named Balaam had a donkey. God wanted to talk to Balaam, but Balaam couldn't hear Him. So, the donkey started walking backward. "Why are you doing that?" Balaam asked. The donkey stopped and looked at Balaam, but Balaam still couldn't see God.

God was trying to tell Balaam through the donkey. The donkey kept walking backward again! Balaam got angry and hit the donkey, but it just kept walking the same way. "I love you," God whispered. The donkey finally stopped when Balaam heard the voice!

The donkey was wise. It knew God was speaking. Balaam was happy and followed God's directions.

Why this matters: God always speaks to us. Sometimes, it's through friends, books, or even animals like the donkey. God loves us and wants to help us, just like He helped Balaam! God's voice is always kind and good.

Key Verse

Exodus 20:3

Ex: "Love is strong." - Count check: Still too short. Need to get closer to 150-250 words. Let's make it more instructional for the Sunday School teacher. - Revised Plan: 1. What it says: Simple phrasing. 2. Context: The story setting. 3. Why it matters: God's love and help. 4. Application: Simple action. - Draft: What it Says: Exodus 20:3 says, "You shall have no other gods before me." In very small small words, God wants our love to stay with Him. He is the only one who wa wants to be our best friend forever. Context: God spoke from the big, blue Mountain in the middle of the desert. This i is the story of how God told His chosen people to follow His ways. Why it Matters: This verse shows God is the Good Father. It teaches us God loves us. We d do not need to love many things. God's love is so big we need help. We need need Jesus, our Savior, to help us know and love God perfectly. Application: For our lesson, use pictures. Show a big heart for God. Ask the child to touch their heart and say, "I love my Father in heaven." Sing a simple song about love, like "My Father in Heaven." Do the "Heart Touch" game where you point to Jesus, then yourself, then G God. - Word Count Check: ~140 words. Need to add a bit more substance on the sen sensory/song aspect to hit the 150-250 range. - Refining: Add sensory details. Touch the "Mountain". Use sounds. - Final Polish: What it Says: Exodus 20:3 says, "You shall have no other gods before me." This means Go God wants your heart to love Him most. He is the only one who wants to be y your special friend forever. Context: God spoke from the big, blue mountain in the middle of the desert. This i is the story where God told His family to listen to His voice. It happened when God wanted to show us how kind He is. Why it Matters: God's law shows He loves us very much. It is important to listen. But we need Jesus, our Savior, to help us. Jesus helps us love God perfectly. God wants you to pay attention to Him only. He is so strong and good. Application: Let's use a big heart. Put your hands on your chest. Sing "I love my Fath Father in Heaven." Touch the picture of God and Jesus. Let's make a heart sound. "L-O-V-E." Let's say, "I only love God." God is good. Jesus helps us. Clap your hands when you say the name of God. - Word Count Check: 178 words. This looks like a strong target within 150-2 150-250 range. - Final Check: Ensure all constraints are met. - Word count: ~178 words. - Format: Clear sections with bold headers. - Tone: Instructional and child-friendly. - Content: Covers what, context, why, and how. What it Says: Exodus 20:3 says, "You shall have no other gods before me." This means God wants your heart to love Him most. He is the only one who wants to be your special friend forever. Context: God spoke from the big, blue mountain in the middle of the desert. This is the story where God told His family to listen to His voice. It happened whe when God wanted to show us how kind He is. Why it Matters: God's law shows He loves us very much. It is important to listen. But we ne need Jesus, our Savior, to help us. Jesus helps us love God perfectly. God wants you to pay attention to Him only. He is so strong and good. Application: Let's use a big heart. Put your hands on your chest. Sing "I love my Father Father in Heaven." Touch the picture of God and Jesus. Let's make a heart s sound. "L-O-V-E." Let's say, "I only love God." God is good. Jesus helps us us. Clap your hands when you say the name of God.

Activities

Activity 1:

1. Show the donkey. Say, "Balaam's donkey was very wise! She heard God's voice too!" Hold the donkey up.
2. Act it out: Pretend to talk to the donkey ("Donkey, go fast!"). Wait, she won't move! Say, "She doesn't understand yet. But God spoke to her!"
3. Draw God's love: Give each child paper/crayons. Draw a donkey and write "God talks to animals!" or "He loves us too!"
4. Share: Let kids share what they drew. Say, "Just like the donkey, God listens to you!"
2. "Love in a Little Box" (Donkey & God's Whisper)
6. Talk first: Read the Bible passage in kid-friendly words: "God told Balaam's donkey to stop! She was the first animal to hear God!"
7. Make a donkey: Fold paper plates into a circle. Glue a paper ear on one side. Draw a tail on the other.
8. Make a love box: Fold a small paper bag or box. Write "God's whisper" inside. Glue it to the donkey's back.
9. Play & share: Let kids put their donkey on their arm. Say, "God's love is in this box! Just like He spoke to the donkey!"

Discussion Questions

- Here are four simple, open-ended questions about God's love, based on Balaam's Donkey:
- "When the donkey talked, she said, 'I am the donkey!' Why do you think God used a donkey instead of Balaam to help him?"
- (Encourage them to share what they notice about how God speaks differently.)
- "God always listens to us. What is one way you think God might speak to you, even if you don't hear it right away?"
- (Let them imagine how God might share love with them.)
- "The donkey was scared, but she trusted God. How can we trust God, even when we feel scared or confused?"
- (Focus on trust as a small child might understand, like asking God for help.)
- "In the Bible story, God helped the donkey. How can God help you when you feel small or stuck?"
- (Open-ended for them to share what they imagine God's love might do.)

Prayer Focus

"Dear God, You love me and always hear me, even when I'm little and need help. Just like Balaam's donkey listened, I trust You in every way. You speak to me in ways I don't expect, so I know You're always there to guide and love me! Amen."

>> Missions Spotlight

The Fulani people of West Africa are known as the world's largest nomadic group. Their deep connection to their herds means the story of Balaam's donkey gets immediate attention. Missionaries working across the Sahel region use this story to show that God speaks through the ordinary.

-> To the Cross

God opened the donkey's mouth to speak truth. Later, God would send His ultimate Word, Jesus, to speak truth to a world that couldn't see clearly. God always finds a way to get His message through.