

# FOOTPRINTS

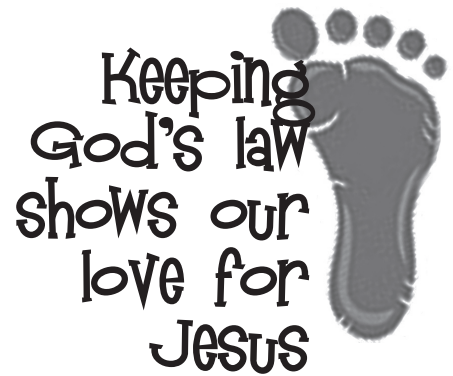
Leader's Guide for LESSON 10

For Kids

## God's Law

### Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)



**Say:** Last week we learned that Creation, our family and the Sabbath are God's gifts to us. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did this past week to show Jesus that you appreciate the gifts of Creation, family and Sabbath.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

### Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that God's law shows His love for us
- **Feel** joy in honoring and obeying God's law
- **Respond** by asking God to help them obey His law out of love for Him

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day  
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



## **The Bridge** (10 Minutes)

### **Activity**

Instruct participants to stand together in the center of the room as you read the following laws. Participants are to quickly decide whether or not the law is a real law. Those who believe the law is real jump to the right side of the room. Those who think it is made-up jump to the left. After all the laws have been read share that, as strange as it may seem, all the laws are real!

### **True & False**

1. It is against the law to lick a toad in Los Angeles.
2. In Normal, Illinois, it is against the law to make faces at a dog.
3. In Delaware, it is against the law to whisper in church.
4. In New Orleans, Louisiana, you can't tie an alligator to a fire hydrant.
5. It is against the law to step out of an airplane while it's in the air over Maine.
6. You can't own a smelly dog in Galesburg, Illinois.
7. You can't park in front of Dunkin Donuts in South Berwick, Maine.
8. In Owenstown, Kentucky, a woman can't buy a hat without her husband's permission.
9. In Portland, Maine, your shoelaces have to be tied while walking down the street.
10. Massachusetts has a law against snoring unless all the bedroom windows are closed and locked.
11. In Ohio, you can't be arrested on Sunday or on the fourth of July.
12. In Austin, Texas, it is against the law to carry wire cutters in your pocket.

### **Debrief**

**Ask:** Who guessed that all of these are real laws on the books in these states? Do some of them seem silly? Which ones? (Acknowledge answers) There must be millions of man-made laws. How many do we find in God's perfect law? (10) Only 10, few enough for us all to remember.

Ask a volunteer to **read Psalm 119:18**.

**Say:** Today/tonight we want to open our eyes to God's law to see the wonderful things there.

**Prayer:** Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



## Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:  
**Keeping God's law shows our love for Jesus.**

### Activity

Read the Ten Commandments from Exodus 20:2-17 as a group. Use whatever version the participants may have. Take turns reading verse by verse, one person reading from each family group. Don't omit the beginning of the law, "I am the Lord your God...". The NIV clearly shows the beginning of each commandment. In case some versions do not, ask at the end of each commandment, "What commandment was that?" (Acknowledge answers.) Ask "What is that law about?" (Acknowledge answers.)

While students keep their Bibles open to Exodus 20, **randomly** select a commandment from the list below and read the clues provided. Allow students to raise their hand or jump to their feet at any time when they think they know which commandment the clues identify. They should answer with the first few words of the commandment and the number if they know it. **Finish reading the clues before moving to the next law.** Keep this moving quickly and cover all 10 commandments.

### Commandment # 1: You shall have no other gods before me.

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment focuses on your relationship with God.
3. This commandment gives God His rightful place in your life.
4. This commandment tells you to put God first in your life.

### Commandment # 2: Do not make any idols.

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment focuses on your relationship with God.
3. In this commandment, God wants you to understand that He is greater than the things He has created.
4. In this commandment, God tells you He doesn't want to share your worship with anything else alive or made of wood or stone.

### You need

- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

### Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution to the families. Be sure to include the number reference.

## **Commandment # 3: Do not misuse God's name.**

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment focuses on respect and loyalty for God.
3. This is one of only two commandments that state a punishment for breaking it.
4. This commandment tells you to be careful with God's name.

## **Commandment # 4: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment focuses on your relationship with God and with others.
3. This commandment involves your time.
4. This commandment extends to those in your family, to your helpers and even to your animals.

## **Commandment # 5: Honor your father and your mother.**

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment deals with your love and concern for others.
3. This is one of two commandments that involve family relationships.
4. This is the only commandment with a promise.

## **Commandment # 6: You shall not murder.**

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment deals with your love and concern for others.
3. This commandment tells us that each person has the same value before God.
4. In this commandment God tells us how much He values life.

## **Commandment # 7: You shall not commit adultery.**

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment deals with your relationship with one other person.
3. This commandment teaches us that families are important to God.
4. This commandment shows that God intends for husbands and wives to love each other in a special way that they don't share with anyone else.

## **Commandment # 8: You shall not steal.**

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment deals with your love and concern for others.
3. This commandment asks us to respect the gifts that God has given to others.
4. This commandment tells us not to take things that don't belong to us.

**Commandment # 9: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment deals with your love and concern for others.
3. This commandment is designed to keep others from being hurt by what we say.
4. This commandment asks us to be committed to the truth.

**Commandment # 10: You shall not covet.**

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This is a commandment against a feeling.
3. In this commandment, God asks you to be satisfied and content with what He has already given you.
4. This commandment is a warning against wanting something you can't have.

**Debrief**

**Ask:** What do all of the Ten Commandments have in common? (God gave them for our good and protection.)

## Bible Discovery

Ask the participants to find Psalm 119. Use the following to explain why Psalm 119 is a very special chapter in the Bible:

- David wrote it
- It is the longest chapter in the Bible
- It is divided into 22 sections — 1 for each of the 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet
- Each section has 8 verses for a total of 176 verses.
- In each section the first word in each line begins with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet making it easier to memorize.
- This entire Psalm is about valuing God's law.
- Many words are used as synonyms (words with similar/same meanings) for the word law — word, commands, commandments, precepts, way, statutes.

**Write on the board:** God's law...

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called on.

- 1 Read Psalm 119:152.** How long will God's law last? (Forever.) Do you think this may be why God wrote the Ten Commandments on stone? (Acknowledge answers.)

**Write on the board:** ... will last forever.

- 2 Read Psalm 119:2.** What does this verse say will make people "blessed" or "happy?" (Keeping His statutes and seeking Him with all their heart.)

**Write on the board:** brings happiness

- 3 Read Psalm 119:4.** What does God expect us to do about His precepts? (Fully obey them.)

**Write on the board:** ... is to be fully obeyed

- 4 Read Psalm 119:165.** What do people who love God's law have? (Great peace.)

**Write on the board:** brings great peace

- 5 Read Romans 7:7.** What does the law show us? (What sin is.)

**Write on the board:** ... shows us what sin is

- 6 Read Galatians 3:24.** What does this verse say the law does for us? (It leads us to Jesus so we can be justified.)

**Write on the board:** ... leads us to Jesus

- 7 Read John 14:15.** What reason for obeying Jesus' commands is given in this verse? (Love for Jesus.)

**Write on the board:** ... shows that we love Jesus

## Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking "Tell me about God's law, it..."
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.





## My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

**Leader Share** briefly a time when you knew that keeping God's law protected you or gave you a blessing.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

### You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

**Say:** Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



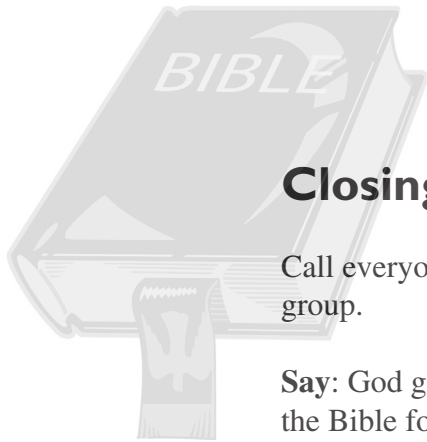
## My World (5-8 Minutes)

**Leaders:** While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time "warning" to the other families such as, "Please finish in three more minutes." Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

### You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



## **Closing** (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

**Say:** God gave us His law as recorded in the Bible for our good and our protection because He loves us. When we obey His law we love Him back.

### **You need**

- Three pennies for each participant
- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

**Ask:** Did you select a *Mentoring Moments* to do this week?

**Grace Point — Say:** Next week I will invite you to share your Mentoring Moment and what you learned about God's law. Please bring your activity to show us.

**Say** the *Footprint* together: **Keeping God's law shows our love for Jesus.**

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for His law and asking Him to help us keep His commandments out of love for Him

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.



## My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Keeping God's law shows our love for Jesus.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, "Do you understand what this means?" or "Do you have any questions about this one?" Clarify any points as needed.

### God's Ten Commandments are listed in Exodus 20:1-17

1. God's law will last forever .....Psalm 119:152
2. God's law brings happiness.....Psalm 119:2
3. God's law is to be fully obeyed .....Psalm 119:4
4. God's law brings great peace .....Psalm 119:165
5. God's law shows us what sin is ..... Romans 7:7
6. God's law leads us to Jesus ..... Galatians 3:24
7. Keeping God's law shows that we love Jesus .....John 14:15

3. Use the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 to **review** each of them. **Ask:** Is there one particular law that is hard for you to obey? What do you think Jesus wants you to do about obeying His law?
4. Parents/mentors: **Share** briefly a personal experience when keeping God's law brought good or protection to you or others.
5. **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Do you choose to keep all of God's commandments because you love Jesus? If your child says "Yes," affirm his/her decision. **Say:** When we make the choice to obey, Jesus helps us do it. If your child is not sure or says "No" or "Not now," **Say:** It's all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
6. **Pray** as a family circle thanking God for His law and asking Him to help you each obey His law.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day  
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

## My World

1. **Discuss** which commandments show our love for God (1-4) and which ones show our love for others (5-10).
2. **Say:** God gave us rules to obey because He loves us and knows that when we choose to live by His rules we will be safe and happy. When we obey God's rules we show that we love Him. **Ask:** Why do you think love is so important to God's law?
3. **Ask:** Have you ever done something wrong? We all have, haven't we? **Say:** When we've broken a rule at home or school or even one of God's 10 rules, that's when we need to remember Jesus. We need to remember that He still loves us, even when we choose to disobey Him. We need to remember that Jesus died on the Cross to forgive us for breaking His law. **Ask:** Do you need to ask Jesus to forgive you for breaking one of His laws? If your child answers "Yes," help him/her pray for forgiveness.
4. **Read** through the "Mentoring Moments" and choose one to do this week. Bring your activity to show the group next week.

**Grace Point** — Next week you will be invited to share your *Mentoring Moment* and what you learned about God's law. Please bring your activity to show us.

**Next Week** Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share an experience you have had when you saw the war between good and evil in action in your life or in the life of someone close to you. You will also be asked to share one way you want to stand boldly for Jesus.

## God's Law

### Mentoring Moments for Lesson 10

*Mentoring Moments* are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

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#### Choice One

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 6:24

**Activity:** Make a list of synonyms for “protect.” Use a thesaurus if necessary.

**For Discussion:** What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments? Here’s what a group of students said.

Michael, age 12: “So that we know what’s right and wrong.”

Rebecca, age 12: “To protect us from evil.”

Greg, age 14: “They are to guide us through our lives, and they are the rules God wants us to follow.”

Anthony, age 11: “To keep us going in the right direction.”

Do you agree with any of these students? Who and why? What have you learned about the purpose of the Ten Commandments? How do the commandments protect us? Do the commandments always feel like protection to you?

**Prayer Point:** Thank God for giving us a set of instructions by which to live. If the commandments don’t always feel like protection, confess that to Him and ask Him to make you willing to obey Him.

#### Choice Two

**Scripture:** Ezekiel 36:26, 27

**Activity:** Go out into your yard or to a park and find a rock about the size of your fist, which would be about the size of your heart. Compare it to a meaty part of your body, like your thigh.

**For Discussion:** What does it mean to have a heart of stone? How would that be different from a heart of flesh? Why does God want to give you a new heart? What’s wrong with the heart you have now? What does it mean to have the Spirit move you?

**Prayer Point:** Confess to God the stoniness of your heart. Ask Him for the new heart He promises and thank Him for being willing to give you a new heart.

## **Choice Three**

**Scripture:** Exodus 20:1-11

**Activity:** Rewrite and paraphrase each of the first four commandments, turning the negatives into positives and the positives into negatives. (The “shalls” should become “shall nots” and the “shall nots” should become “shalls.”)

**For Discussion:** How does looking at the commandments in reverse change their meaning? Is it harder or easier to apply them to your life this way? What do the first four commandments have in common? Which is the hardest for you?

**Prayer point:** Thank God for giving you an instruction manual for your life.

## **Choice Four**

**Scripture:** Exodus 20:12-17

**Activity:** Rewrite and paraphrase each of the last six commandments like you did yesterday, turning the positives into negatives and the negatives into positives.

**For discussion:** Is it harder to think of these commandments as positives or negatives? What do these commandments have in common? Which is the hardest for you? Look at the first and the last commandments. What do they have in common?

**Prayer Point:** Confess to God your inability to keep His commandments. Thank Him for the new heart He has given you.

## **Choice Five**

**Scripture:** Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8, 9

**Activity:** Write part or all of one or both of these texts in your neatest handwriting. Decorate your paper and hang it someplace where you will see it often. Sing “Amazing Grace” with your family.

**For discussion:** How does it feel to know that Jesus has already done everything necessary to save you and has given you salvation as a gift? How does it feel to know that you can’t be saved by keeping the law? What would it be like to be around someone who was perfect and could boast about their perfection?

**Prayer Point:** Confess to God your sinfulness and then thank Him for His amazing grace that has saved you from sin.