EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

A lectionary-based Sunday school curriculum for Pre-K through High School

Proper 25 Year A

Sunday October 23 to October 29

A free resource created by the Christian Education Commission
of the Anglican Diocese of Fort Worth

Sunday School Curriculum for the Proper 25, Year A
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Lectionary Texts

Exodus 22:21-27
Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

Exodus 22:21-27

21 "Do not treat outsiders badly. Do not beat them down. Remember, you were outsiders in Egypt.
22 "Do not take advantage of widows. Do not take advantage of children whose fathers have died.
23 "If you do, they might cry out to me. Then I will certainly hear them. 24 And I will get angry. I will kill you with a sword. Your wives will become widows. Your children's fathers will die.
25 "Suppose you lend money to one of my people among you who is in need. Then do not be like those who lend money and charge interest. Do not charge any interest.
26 "Suppose your neighbor owes you money and gives you a coat as a promise to pay it back. Then return it to him by sunset. 27 That coat is the only thing he owns to wear or sleep in. When he cries out to me, I will listen, because I am loving and kind.

Psalm 1

1 Blessed is the one who obeys the law of the Lord.
He doesn't follow the advice of evil people.
He doesn't make a habit of doing what sinners do.
He doesn't join those who make fun of the Lord and his law.
2 Instead, he takes delight in the law of the Lord.
He thinks about his law day and night.
3 He is like a tree that is planted near a stream of water.
It always bears its fruit at the right time.
Its leaves don't dry up.
Everything godly people do turns out well.
4 Sinful people are not like that at all.
They are like straw
that the wind blows away.
5 When the Lord judges them, their life will come to an end.

Sinners won't have any place among those who are godly.
6 The Lord watches over the lives of those who are godly.
But the lives of sinful people will lead to their death.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Paul's Work for God in Thessalonica

1 Brothers and sisters, you know that our visit to you was not a failure. 2 You know what happened earlier in the city of Philippi. We suffered, and people treated us badly there. But God gave us the boldness to tell you his good news. We preached to you even though people opposed us strongly.
3 The appeal we make is based on truth. It comes from a pure heart. We are not trying to trick you. 4 In fact, it is just the opposite. God has accepted us to preach. He has trusted us with the good news. We aren't trying to please people. We want to please God. He puts our hearts to the test.
5 As you know, we never praised you if we didn't mean it. We didn't put on a mask to cover up any sinful longing. God is our witness that this is true. 6 We were not expecting people to praise us. We were not looking for praise from you or anyone else.
As Christ's apostles, we could have caused you some expense. 7 But we were gentle among you. We were like a mother caring for her little children. 8 We loved you so much that we were happy to share with you God's good news. We were also happy to share our lives with you. You had become very special to us.

Matthew 22:34-46

The Most Important Commandment
34 The Pharisees heard that the Sadducees weren't able to answer Jesus. So the Pharisees got together. 35 One of them was an authority on the law. So he tested Jesus with a question. 36 "Teacher," he asked, "which is the most important commandment in the Law?"
37 Jesus replied, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.'— (Deuteronomy 6:5) 38 This is the first and most important commandment. 39 And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'— (Leviticus 19:18) 40 Everything that is written in the Law and the Prophets is based on these two commandments."

Whose Son Is the Christ?

41 The Pharisees were gathered together. Jesus asked them, 42 "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?"
"The son of David," they replied.

43 He said to them, "Then why does David call him 'Lord'? The Holy Spirit spoke through David himself. David said,

44 "'The Lord said to my LORD,
"Sit at my right hand
until I put your enemies
under your control." '—(Psalm 110:1) 45 So if David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be David's son?"
46 No one could answer him with a single word. From that day on, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Overview of the Texts:

Each of the texts today speaks of not treating others poorly. In the Exodus reading, God says he is listening to the cries of the people and will hear if they are being mistreated. He promises to act on their behalf and punish harshly anyone who harms the helpless. In the Epistle, Paul assures the Thessalonians that he and his crew have treated them with kindness and honesty. The most important way that Paul has been good to them is that he has preached the Good News to them for their benefit. In the Gospel, Jesus explains the greatest commandment, to love God above all things. How do we show this love? It might seem like we should think only of God, but the best way to love God is to show it out into the world by loving all of the people he has created. Jesus further explains that the second Great Commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves. If you think about it, the Ten Commandments easily fit into these two categories. The first 4 of the Commandments concern loving God. If we truly love God we will follow the first four as a natural outpouring of that love. The last 6 Commandments concern loving our neighbor as ourselves. Again, if we love God enough, these Commandments about not treating others poorly will come easily to us.

Memory Verse:

Matthew 22:37 "Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind.'"

Pre-K – Kindergarten & Elementary Lesson Plans

Opening Prayer:

PreK- Kinder: Lord's Prayer Elementary: Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Supplies and Preparation:

Supplies: heavy white card stock cut into 4.25 x 5.5 pieces, a hole punch, a metal ring (either the key ring kind, or the toothed opening kind – in a pinch a large paper clip will work), and markers.

Preparation: Print out the Commandments (below) on the card stock and cut into individual pieces. Punch a hole in the top left corner of each card. Make enough sets to give to each student.

Lesson:

- Read the Gospel lesson.
- Ask the students what Jesus said was the most important Commandment? *To love God more than anything else.*
- Is it sometimes hard to love God more than anything else? *Yes, we can be distracted by other things that become too important to us.*
- What are some ways we can show God we love him more than anything else? *Go to church, pray, read his Bible, make sure we talk to him every day.*
- What was the thing Jesus said was the next most important thing? *To love our neighbor as ourselves.*
- Why would God want this? *This is the best way to show him we love him. By doing what he asks and loving all the other people he created the way He loves them, we can show God that he is number one in our lives.*
- What is a neighbor? *In this case, a neighbor is not just someone who lives next door. Neighbors are everyone – people we know, people we don't know, people we like, people we don't like, people that look like us, people that look really different from us.*
- What are ways we can love our neighbors? *We can help people when they need it, be nice and friendly, pray for people who are not friendly, share the Good News of Jesus, and never do the things that God says no to in the Commandments because these things hurt people and ourselves.*
- Read each of the Commandments and give a brief explanation as follows:
    - You shall have no other gods before me. We know that there is only ONE God.
    - You shall not worship idols. Idols are things that are not God. We worship only God. We never make other things more important to us than God.
    - You shall not use the Lord's name in vain. We know that God's name is holy and we never use it in a silly or ugly way.
    - You shall keep the Sabbath Day holy. The Sabbath is a special day of rest

that God gives us as a gift. We use it as a day to remember God by going to church and as a much-needed break from the busyness of life.

- Honor your father and mother. Our parents help us know how God loves and cares for us so we must be good and listen to them like we listen to God.
- You shall not commit murder. God made life precious and holy and we must protect all human life from the time God makes a new person until it's time for that person to go be with God in heaven. We shouldn't kill anyone or even hate a person. We cannot do or say mean things about people.
- You shall not commit adultery. When a man and woman get married they make a promise to love each other forever. Married people should not break their promise to each other and God. They should not act like they are married to someone else. People who are not married should not act like married people.
- You shall not steal. To steal is to take something that is not yours. If you have to steal it to get it, it is something God does not think you should have.
- You shall not lie. To lie is to say something that is not true. We should not tell a lie, especially about another person.
- You shall not covet. To covet is to want something that someone else has a lot. We should be happy with what we have and not let wanting someone else's things lead us to make bad choices.

Craft:

Give each child a set of printed Ten Commandment cards. As you read the description of each Commandment, have the children draw a picture on the back of the card that shows that Commandment. As you go along, see if they can tell you good things they can do instead for each commandment. When they are done with the cards, ask them to tell you which ones are about God (*1-4)* and which ones are about our neighbor (*5-10)*. Help the students put their cards on the ring. Suggest that they use these flashcards at home to help them learn and memorize the Commandments and follow them, too!

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Junior & Senior High Lesson Plan

Opening Prayer: Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, Hail Mary

Supplies and Preparation:

Supplies: A chalkboard or other large writing surface, list of the Ten Commandments (see below), copy of *To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism (see below).*

Preparation: Download the Catechism at https://anglicanchurch.net/catechism/
Use the section on the Ten Commandments (Questions 267-335) to study in preparation for the discussion in the lesson.

Discussion:

- Read the Gospel reading.
- Ask the students what Jesus said was the Greatest Commandment. *That we should love the Lord with all our heart.*
- What did Jesus say was the second most important Commandment? *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*
- What is this passage sometimes called? *The Summary of the Law.*
- Why did Jesus summarize the Law?
- What are the Ten Commandments? *See how many the students can guess on your help. Write down everything they say. See if they got them in order. See if they missed any or added any extras. Write the correct list.*
- Which Commandments have to do with God? *1-4*
- Which Commandments have to do with our neighbor? *5-10*
- Can the students think of anything else that should have been included in the Ten Commandments? *Encourage them to suggest some things (or use their extras from the first exercise) and then show them which Commandment it would fit under. The simple ten really do cover everything.*
- How did Jesus fulfill each Commandment? *Encourage the students to think of either specific examples of Jesus' actions, or Jesus' general behavior that personify perfect obedience to each commandment not simply in NOT doing certain things, but how each Commandment can be lived out in the positive. For example, Jesus didn't just NOT KILL anyone, he acted in the positive treating life as sacred, healing people in mind, body and spirit, acting with love and compassion, forgiving people, and most of all by securing eternal life through his saving death for us.*
- What are we called to do? *To follow these Commandments the way Jesus did.*

Closing Prayer: Collect of the Day

1.

You shall have no other gods before Me.

3.

You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.

2.

You shall not make idols.

4.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

5.

Honor your father and your mother.

7.

You shall not commit adultery.

6.

You shall not murder.

8.

You shall not steal.

9.

You shall not bear
false witness
against your
neighbor.

10.

You shall not
covet.

The Ten Commandments:

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.