

Fear, Love & Trust: Following God's Commandments

Bulletin Notes

The following summaries are intended to provide a Sunday School link to parents and the congregation. These paragraphs can be copied from the Director CD using a word-processing program.

Consider using these summaries in the following ways:

- Print them in your congregation's weekly bulletin or newsletter.
- Email them as a weekly encouragement for student and parent Sunday School participation.
- Email them as a review to Sunday School each week.
- Email them as a "staying in touch" note for students or families who are absent.

Lesson 1

The account of "God Gives the Law" is today's Sunday School lesson. The children will learn that the Law was given through Moses, but grace and mercy came through Jesus Christ. Talk about how God commands that we love Him and how His Law shows us our sin when we fail to keep His commands. Ask your children, *"Who kept the Law perfectly for us?"* Though we sin much, daily we have God's forgiveness because of Christ, His Son.

Lesson 2

God commands that I put Him first, but like the people in this week's Sunday School lesson called "The Golden Calf," I fail to keep Him first in my life time and time again. The Israelites chose to worship the golden calf rather than the God who brought them safely out of Egypt. Consider discussing, *"What things are you tempted to put ahead of God? How often does God forgive us when we fail to put Him first?"*

Lesson 3

God commands that I respect His name. Today's Sunday School lesson involves the well-known story "David and Goliath." As David slew the giant Goliath, so Jesus, our David, slew the jeering giants of sin, Satan, and death with the weapon of His own death. Discuss, *"How could David approach his battle with Goliath confidently? How can we face the 'Goliaths' in our life with confidence?"*

Lesson 4

The Sunday School lesson today focuses on God's command that I learn His Word, as students study the account "Solomon Builds and Dedicates the Temple." Though He was hidden, God resided within the Old Testament temple. Jesus is the unveiled, human Most Holy Place and is truly accessible to all, enfolding believers in the arms of His Word and Sacraments. Parents might ask, *"What kind of things would you have seen in Solomon's temple? Where do we see Jesus today?"*

Lesson 5

God commands that I honor authorities. In the Bible account for this week, "Joseph Cares for Jacob," we see this command in action as Joseph cares for his aging father. Through His Son, Jesus, God forgives us when we fail to honor authorities. Discuss, *"Whom has God put in authority over you? How can you honor those in authority over you?"*

Lesson 6

People need to be rescued from all sorts of predicaments. Today in Sunday School, our children see how "Abraham Rescues Lot" by God's grace and strength. God commands that I respect life.

This Bible account is an Old Testament picture of how God rescued all of us from sin's condemnation. In family devotions this week, discuss, *"What are some Bible stories that picture God rescuing someone?"*

Lesson 7

Abraham was a matchmaker. Today in Sunday School, our children study the efforts Abraham made to ensure that his son Isaac would marry a person who loved God in the account "Isaac and Rebekah." God commands that I honor marriage and family. Thank God for the salvation He provides through His Son, Jesus. As a family, discuss, *"How can we honor God as parents and children?"*

Lesson 8

God commands that I respect my neighbor's things. In the Bible account "Achan's Sin," students learn how the devil tempts Achan to take what does not belong to him. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God forgives us when we are tempted to take what is not ours and strengthens us to respect our neighbor. Discuss, *"How can we show our neighbors that we respect their property?"*

Lesson 9

Sunday School students studied the story of "David and Jonathan" today. God commands that I speak well of others. David and Jonathan reflected the love of God within their hearts. So, too, our love for others is the reflection of God's love given to us through Christ. Parents could ask, *"How did David and Jonathan demonstrate their love and care for each other? How does God demonstrate His love and care for us?"*

Lesson 10

In His Word, God commands that I am content. The Bible account "Ahab Covets Naboth's Vineyard" demonstrates the sad consequences of covetousness. God provides all we truly need in this life. Consider discussing, *"How does God give us what we need every day? How can you learn to be satisfied with what you have?"*

Lesson 11

This week's Sunday School lesson continues to explore God's command to be content. In the Bible account "Paul and Philemon," Paul exhorts Philemon and Onesimus to put aside their conflict and work together for the sake of the Gospel. As a family, discuss, *"Who is someone you would find it hard to work together with? How could you learn to respect and work with that person?"*

Lesson 12

This week in Sunday School, students learned about Jesus' encounter with "The Rich Young Ruler." Like the young ruler, we often struggle with God's commands that we fear, love, and serve Him. Through His Word, God strengthens us to face the challenge of serving Him. Consider discussing, *"How can material possessions get in the way of our relationship with Jesus? How can we overcome the temptations of wealth?"*

Lesson 13

Today in Sunday School, we study "Peter's Reinstatement." We are all like Peter in our words and actions, denying our Lord and weeping bitterly over what we have done. We are in need of the same comfort that Peter received—the comfort of sins forgiven and the assurance that even though we are faithless, Jesus will remain faithful. Jesus has kept God's commands in my place. You might discuss, *"How did Peter express his sorrow and repentance? What specific directions did Jesus give to Peter?"*