Junior Soldiers

Unit 1 : Lesson 2

10 + 1 Special Rules

PURPOSE : For the children to explore and understand some of the commandments that God has set out for us.

Jesus said: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.' This is the first and most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like this one, and it is, 'Love others as much as you love yourself.'"

Matthew 22:37-39

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Exodus 20:1-17(CEV) - The Ten Commandments

God said to the people of Israel:

'I am the Lord your God, the one who brought you out of Egypt where you were slaves.

Do not worship any god except me.

Do not make idols that look like anything in the sky or on earth or in the ocean under the earth. Don't bow down and worship idols. I am the Lord your God, and I demand all your love. If you reject me, I will punish your families for three or four generations. But if you love me and obey my laws, I will be kind to your families for thousands of generations.

Do not misuse my name. I am the Lord your God, and I will punish anyone who misuses my name.

Remember that the Sabbath day belongs to me. You have six days when you can do your work, but the seventh day of each week belongs to me, your God. No one is to work on that day: not you, your children, your slaves, your animals, or the foreigners who live in your towns. In six days I made the sky, the earth, the oceans, and everything in them, but on the seventh day I rested. That's why I made the Sabbath a special day that belongs to me.

Respect your father and your mother, and you will live a long time in the land I am giving you.

Do not murder.

Be faithful in marriage.

Do not steal.

Do not tell lies about others.

Do not want anything that belongs to someone else. Don't want anyone's house, wife or husband, slaves, oxen, donkeys or anything else.'

Read the two key passages that are related to the lesson today: the Ten Commandments and 'the greatest commandment'. It is important that we do not just teach the Ten Commandments in isolation, these are only one part of God's guidelines for us. It is important that we help the children to understand that these are guidelines for living, but we are not to be legalistic about sticking to the laws. This was one of the issues that Jesus had with the Pharisees—that they would be so rigid in their observance of the law that they didn't show any love or grace where they were needed.

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

- Have the list of situations for 'Designing Rules' either written up for the children to see or on individual pieces of paper for their group to work from.
- Decide and choose your everyday objects for the 'Create a game' activity.

For 'The Main Thing'

- Write up the Ten Commandments in text message (mobile phone) style.
- Prepare '10 Simple Rules' song, YouTube clip or lyrics.
- Decide which of the mediums you will use for representing the Ten Commandments and then organise all the items that you will need for each, e.g. paper, textas, camera, playdough, construction items etc.

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off a Home & Beyond card for each child.

Connecting In

Designing Rules ...

- This activity would best be done in pairs or small groups. Give the children a choice of designing some rules for one of the situations below, you might like to divide the situations up between the groups to get a good spread of ideas.
- Design some rules relating to:
    - Travelling in the car: Whose music do you listen to? Who sits in which seats?
    - Saturday morning routine: When are you allowed to get out of bed? What do you need to do before you are allowed to turn the TV on? Who chooses what to watch?
    - Homework: When does your homework have to be done by? Do you have to do your homework before you can do something you want to?
    - Using the computer: How much time are you allowed to spend each day/week? Where is the computer set up? What are you allowed to watch/listen to/use on the computer? Do you need to have supervision?
    - For your birthday party: How do you decide who to invite? Where can you hold it? What sorts of foods are you allowed to eat? What activities are you allowed to have?

Create a Game ...

- Divide the children into small groups for this activity.
- Give each group 3 - 5 everyday objects, e.g. pieces of rope, plastic cups, ball, socks, pair of shoes, tie, sticky tape, ruler, chair, cardboard box, playdough, dice, apple, textas, sticky notes, comb etc. (Go crazy!)
- Give the groups a time limit of five minutes to make up a game using the items that you have allocated to that group. They must be able to explain the game and the rules to the other groups.
- When the time limit is up, get each of the groups to give an explanation of the game and the rules that they would need to know if they were going to play that game.
- Give opportunity for the other groups to ask some clarifying questions that will (hopefully!) challenge the group about having thought through all the rules that might be needed.
- **Link:** The link for both the above activities will be the same.
    - What is it like to be able to make up the rules?
    - Do you think that everyone will like the rules that you have decided on? Why? Why not?
    - What are some of the rules that you struggle with/don't like? Why?
    - We talked last time about some of the rules/guidelines that God sets out for us, can you remember what some of them were? (Ten Commandments, Love the Lord your God ...)
    - Today we are going to explore those a little more.

The Main Thing

Below you will see a list of the Ten Commandments done in text message style. You might like to write these up on a board or some large paper or print them out for the children so they can take them home and have their own copy. Another great way of looking at the commandments is by way of a song by Mercy Me called '10 Simple Rules'. It is on their album *10*, which you can get through Koorong/Word or there is a YouTube clip that you might like to watch as a group. The lyrics are great and catchy - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYohmsvlA10

- Go through the Ten Commandments in text style
- Listen to the song '10 Simple Rules', watch the YouTube clip or have a look at the lyrics together.
- Read through Exodus 20:1–17 using the CEV version at the beginning of the lesson

God texts the Ten Commandments

1. no1 b4 me. srsly.
2. dnt wrshp pix/idols
3. no omg's
4. no wrk on w/end (sat 4 now; sun l8r)
5. pos ok - ur m&d r cool
6. dnt kill ppl
7. :-X only w/ m8
8. dnt steal
9. dnt lie re: bf
10. dnt ogle ur bf's m8. or ox. or dnkey. myob.

Below is a list of ways that you can choose to represent each of the rules; some mediums will suit certain rules better. At the end when you have all the 10 rules, take some photos that you can then show and use in worship at another stage. Divide your group into small groups to work on one of the rules, depending on the size of your group some of the small groups will need to do two or three of the rules so that all of them get covered.

- Take a photo that represents one of the 10 rules
- Use a storyboard to explain one of the 10 rules
- Draw a picture that represents on of the 10 rules
- Create a chant/rhyme or rap that will express one of the 10 rules
- Using construction materials (boxes, icy pole sticks, tape, etc.) create something that expresses one of the 10 rules
- Make an acrostic, i.e. write the word/rule down the page and then use each letter to start a phrase that says something about the rule (don't murder, steal or lie could be good here)
- Create a comic strip to express one of the 10 rules
- Make a collage (you could use newspapers and a number of other items for this activity)
- Create a sign that represents one of the 10 rules
- Rewrite one of the 10 rules into your own words - write it up big so that everyone can see it, or write it on the board
- Use paper magiclay or playdough to make something that will represent one of the 10 rules
- Design a Facebook status or Twitter post that will express one of the 10 rules.

Tying In

Matthew 22:37-39(CEV)

Jesus answered:
'"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind." This is the first and most important commandment.
The second most important commandment is like this one.
And it is, "Love others as much as you love yourself."'
Matthew 22:37 - 39(CEV)

- Read this scripture together
- How do the Ten Commandments fit into this rule? (*First five commandments are about loving God, the second five commandments are about loving others.)*
- All the rules and guidelines that God provides for us, help us to love Him with all our heart, soul and mind but they also help us to love others, this is shown in the way we live and the things that we think, say and do.
- Saint Augustine of Hippo was a Latin-speaking philosopher and theologian who lived in the Roman Africa Province in the 4th century. His writings were very influential in the development of Western Christianity . One of his famous quotes sums up all that we have been exploring about God's commandments and how he wants us to live:

'Love God, and do what you like.'

- What do you think this quote means?
- If we love God with all our heart and soul and mind **first** then the way we live will reflect that love. Your behaviour, thinking and words will be influenced by the love you have for God.
- Pray together as a group. Pray and thank God for the rules and structure He puts in our lives to keep us safe and live the right way.

Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

Review House Rules ...

- After looking at God's rules (the Ten Commandments and the rule of loving God and loving others) in the past two lessons, we need to go back and look at our house rules.
- From your list from last week, in light of the above, is there anything that you need to change.
- Review the list with your family and see how your list fits into God's rules and guidelines for us.

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