

Syllabus

TEN

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Matthew 15:19

Mark 12: 30

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John 4:24

Introduction

Welcome to another year of the The Boys' Brigade NI District Scripture Programme. Teaching the Bible has always been at the forefront of The Boys' Brigade movement. It is by teaching its message that we are able to convey to young boys the priceless principles of the Gospel and the way of salvation as the greatest and best way that anyone can follow.

This year the Scripture Programme is the Ten Commandments, using the title 'Ten'. You may recognise this material. It has been used before for the 2011-2012 syllabus.

The Christian Education & Church Relations Committee are seeking to create a rolling programme of topics of scripture course material. Updating, adding new material and reviewing existing material. This will enable us to cover the main aspects of scripture over the period of time the boys are in the Company Section.

We have provided the leader's notes and teaching material that we hope you will find helpful in preparing the talks for your Company. It is important to stress that these are only notes; they are not the talks. No doubt you will have your own ideas on how best to present each lesson with meaning and relevance for greatest impact. We would urge you to use your time in sharing the material creatively. We encourage you to open and close your time of teaching and sharing in prayer.

Four memory verses are included and should be known for the purpose of the scripture assessment in either the ESV or NIV. The assessment will also require boys to have a good knowledge of the lesson content based on the passages for each lesson.

The contributors in reviewing the material are:

Rev. Nigel Kane

Rev. Noel Mulholland

Rev. George McClelland

Rev. Jonathan Moxen

May God bless you as you teach 'Ten' to the boys in your Company during this session. It is our prayer that as you teach this material you will learn more about Jesus and pass this on to those under your care and that you will know the blessing of being able to share the truth of His word.

Jonathan Moxen

Christian Education & Church Relations Committee
Boys' Brigade NI District

Please note that all Bible references have been taken from the English Standard Version, ESV.

Extra Resources

Keeping the 10 Commandments, J.I. Packer

New City Catechism mobile app

The Ten Commandments, Kevin DeYoung

The Ten Commandments for Today, Brian Edwards

Westminster Shorter Catechism questions 42-82

1. The One And Only



The Big Idea

We should worship God and God alone, there is no other that is worthy of our worship.



The Word

Exodus 19:1-8; & 20:1-3

Introduction & Discussion

The Bible Project is a good resource to review how the people of Israel had come to this stage in the book of Exodus. Search on Youtube for The Bible Project Exodus Part 1.

The people of Israel had lived in Egypt for about 400 years. Once they were the guests of Pharaoh, when Joseph was alive, but things changed with time and subsequent Pharaohs were afraid of the growing Israelite population in Egypt. By making them slaves they subjected them to hard labour and poor conditions. The people cried out to God to deliver them from Egypt; God heard and sent Moses to confront Pharaoh and plead for their release but he would not let them go. God sent ten plagues upon the land and people of Egypt causing all kinds of illness and problems. It was only when, with the tenth plague, God killed the first born son of every

Egyptian household while saving the Israelite children, that Pharaoh finally allowed them to go.

Having crossed the Red Sea to safety in the wilderness, God met with Moses on Mount Sinai and gave him the Ten Commandments: ten rules that set down the right way to worship God and the right way to live with one another. So many laws have their foundation in the Ten Commandments.

The Israelites had become accustomed to many gods in Egypt and in the other nations surrounding them. The sun was 'a god'; the stars were worshipped as gods; the wind blowing in the trees was a god. Many people also made their own hand-crafted gods of gold, bronze or wood. The people worshipped these handmade statues.



Lesson

Write down the ten most important things in your life to which you would want to give your most time and effort. (Come back to the list later.)

God wanted Israel to worship Him and no other gods. Exodus 20:3 is the First Commandment. No other gods. Why is God greater than any other god?

- He is the creator of all things;
- He is the ruler of all things;
- He is the God who provides for all of His creation;

- He is the God who delivered (redeemed), Israel from slavery.

God, and only God, is worthy of our worship. Other gods cannot save us or protect us, they are dumb idols, yet many people prefer to worship what is false rather than the true God. Now check out your list: what is most important to you? Is God on your list? Is He number one? Talk about idols of today: fame, wealth, fortune, following others, possessions, games consoles etc.

- Some will worship a football club and its players;
- Some will worship sports stars and superstars of music or films;

- Some will worship their possessions e.g. car, motorbike, etc.;
- Some will worship themselves – ‘Self’ is a very BIG god.



Application

In the film *Castaway*, Tom Hank’s character is on an island for four years and while there, in some attempt to keep sane, he strikes up a friendship with a volleyball, which he calls Wilson, because it is a Wilson volleyball. He draws a face on it and shares everything with this volleyball, and as you look at that, it would seem he has lost it. But this is exactly what God is communicating to us, it’s crazy going to these other things.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” Revelation 1:8.

The things we worship instead of Him, rob us from the very freedom He wants us to enjoy. In our rebellion we seek short-term gain of happiness that leaves us empty and worse off than we were when we started. Why? We don’t trust God to be our all, to be everything we need in life.

As soon as we put anything or anyone in front of God, then we have sinned, we have broken God’s law. But this is not the end. Just as God provided deliverance from slavery by sending Moses to Pharaoh so He has provided deliverance from sin by sending His son Jesus into the world.

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus is

praying to His Father the night before He knows He is going to die on the cross. He prays, “Father if you are willing take this cup from me” and He says, “not my will, but yours be done.” Jesus did not insist on His will, so that we received the unblemished nature of Jesus. He is blamed and punished for our sin.

So later in the second letter to the Corinthian church Paul says that if you put your faith in what Jesus has done for you, you are holy and blameless in God’s sight, today, not when you get to heaven because of what Jesus has done.

We need to look to Jesus and ask for forgiveness, and if we do that today then we are saved. When we do that then 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, **“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”**

You will never experience the transformation of growing into what God wants us to be, of getting to know God, of fulfilling the purpose of our creation unless we gaze into the face of Jesus.



Memory Verse

Mark 12:30 (ESV)

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

2. The Right Way To Worship God



The Big Idea

We are to worship God, but not worship any image of God.



The Word

Exodus 20:4-6

Introduction & Discussion

The first commandment states that God is the only one to be worshipped. The second commandment tells us how we worship the right God the right way.

We are told in this command not to make any idols. God says we are not to worship a man-made image. This doesn't mean we are not allowed to use tools, nor does it forbid the production of art. The second commandment prohibits making things to serve as objects of worship. This includes things we "make" in our minds. Nothing was to represent God because of God's jealousy. This doesn't mean God envies other things. It does mean protecting that which is yours.

The command makes it clear what the pros and cons of keeping this command are. If the command isn't obeyed, then there will be punishment of the children for the sin of the

parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate God. Is this fair? Yes! What does this punishment look like? Here is a modern example. We often find parents sending their children to Sunday School but not coming to church. This says that parents don't have much time for God. The biggest influences on kids are parents. They have in essence reduced God to the position of a babysitter. Children will naturally mimic what their parents do. If God isn't important to parents, it will soon be that young people don't have much time for Him either. The result is children growing up and not putting God first. The sin of not worshipping God the right way leaves a legacy in the lives of their children of Godlessness.

The other side is that if we worship God properly, with faith and love for Him, then we are assured of being with Him forever.



Lesson

Whenever we do not give God His rightful place we do not glorify God and we make God less than what He is. This is connected to the first commandment, and it means we are not putting Him first.

There is a temptation to make God into being "user-friendly." We easily say, "If I do this, then God will do that". "If I say the right prayer every day, God will bless me.", "If I go to church, then everything will be okay." However, this is not the way to use

God as a 'back-stop'. We are told to trust Him, not use Him.

There is another temptation of trying to reduce God to what we think He is and what He does. People say, "I like to think of God as ..." they are usually remaking God in their image. For example, people often talk about "the man up there" or "The man upstairs." This is lowering God to being like us. Or they see God as only a vengeful God that doesn't love people.

The ultimate form of idolatry is when we reduce God to be the same as us so that we end up worshipping ourselves. The psychologist, Stafford Clark, was right when he said, 'No one is born prejudiced against other people, but everyone is prejudiced in

favour of themselves.' The most common form of idolatry in the world today is that of people worshipping themselves. You give yourself what you want, you don't deny yourself anything, you get upset and angry whenever you can't get what you want.



Application

How then do we worship God in the right way? We need to be remade in His image. Idols must go; they must be torn down, because God alone is worthy of the position of God. Nothing else should challenge His authority. Anything that we set up against God and it can literally be anything that takes the place of God the command warns against this. For our God is a jealous God and He will have nothing in His place. We must go to the Bible and see the many different parts of God's character, many we will read of and understand, but many we'll also never really understand until we get to heaven.

A man was showing his friend from Australia around London and he took him to the House of Commons and the House of Lords next door. As he was showing him around the House of Lords the Australian saw the throne where the Queen sits and opens

parliament once a year. If you have ever seen it, it is spectacular in every way with its gold carvings and beautiful upholstery. The Australian friend asked if he could go and sit on the throne. The man gasped in utter horror, how could anyone ask to sit on the place where only one person had a right to sit.

When conversion happens, God comes and takes the rightful place only He is worthy to sit, and that is the throne in our lives. We must seek to glorify God as we worship Him.

To do this we must live the way the Bible teaches us if we have a personal saving relationship with Jesus. When we trust in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour then we can put God in His rightful place in our worship.



Memory Verse

John 4:24(ESV)

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

3. Mind What You Say



The Big Idea

Understanding that there are right ways and wrong ways to use God's name.



The Word

Exodus 20:7; Matthew 5:33-37 & Luke 6:43-45.

Introduction & Discussion

We live in a society where much of what we hear on a daily basis is either littered with bad language, is hard to trust, or both. Often when we hear God's name it's not in a discussion about the Bible but rather as a swear word, or an exclamation of surprise.



Lesson

In the third commandment, God told His people, **"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."** Exodus 20:7

Taking God's name **"in vain"** means treating God's name as unreal. So, God forbids us from using His name in any way that's flippant, meaningless, or insincere. There are at least three ways we can easily break this commandment.

The first way is by speaking irreverently about God, because we don't take His character seriously. Sadly, we hear a lot of this from the people around us and in the media. The best way to avoid insulting God in this way is to study the Bible. When we do, we discover that God is all-powerful, all-knowing, everywhere present, completely perfect, just, loving, good, trustworthy, eternal and unchangeable. When we understand who God is and what He does, then we'll want to speak about Him reverently, and we'll want others to speak about Him reverently too.

The second way is through using any of God's names as a swearword when we're annoyed about something, or annoyed with

someone, or using God's name as an exclamation of surprise such as OMG. The best way to avoid this is to ask God to enable us keep our emotions under control.

The third way is by failing to keep promises we've made. In Matthew 5:33-37, Jesus pointed out to the religious leaders of His day that since God is everywhere, all promises are made in His presence and involve Him, whether His name is mentioned or not.

God is completely trustworthy, because He always keeps the promises that He has made. Since God takes promises very seriously, He requires us to keep the promises we've made. The best way to do this is by making promises cautiously, and relying on God's strength to keep them once they are made.

In every situation we need to remember that, **"...the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain."** Exodus 20:7b.

In Luke 6:43-45, Jesus explained that our mouth is the overflow of our heart. So, as people listen to us speak, they will be able to tell whether, or not, our heart has been changed by God.

Thankfully, Jesus never took God's name in vain, so He could die to take punishment for all the times we've taken God's name in

vain. It's only when we trust Jesus to be our Saviour that God forgives us for taking His name in vain.



Application

Think about:

- how you speak about God.
- the words you use in conversation with your family & friends, and when you are angry or surprised.
- the promises you make.

Ask God to forgive you for misusing His name. Also ask Him to give you a heart that is pure, and to control what you think, say and do.

4. Whose Day Is It?



The Big Idea

Understanding how to use the day God has given us for His glory, and our good.



The Word

Exodus 20:8-11; Isaiah 58:13-14a; Luke 13:10-17 & Luke 14:1-6

Introduction & Discussion

We now live in a world where people expect to be able to communicate, shop and be entertained 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This is not how God created us. God created human beings to work for six days and to rest for one day each week (as well as resting for an appropriate amount of time on the other six days). Choosing to go against God's design causes serious problems for ourselves and those around us.



Lesson

God established the rhythm of six days work followed by one day rest at the very beginning of time. God completed His work of creating the universe and everything it contains in six days and rested on the seventh day.

From creation, until Jesus rose from the grave on the first Easter Sunday, God's people rested from their normal work and worshipped Him on Saturday. But, since Jesus' resurrection God's people are to rest from their work and worship Him on Sunday.

Exodus 20:8 says "**Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy**". This means we are to treat it differently from other days. We do this by resting from the things we are required to do other days, such as our school work or our job. This means we have time to join with others to worship God in church and to learn about God on our own. It also means we have time to spend with our family, enjoy God's wonderful creation with them and help other people. Sadly, many people just treat God's day like

every other day. Others ask what they can and can't do on Sunday. If we just ask this because we want to see how far we can go before we break the fourth commandment, then our attitude is wrong and we need to go back to the first commandment about having no other gods. Most of the practical questions about what we should do on Sunday are easy to answer when we want to honour God on His day.

Jesus provides us with the perfect example of how to spend God's day. In Luke 4:16, we read, "**...as was His custom, [Jesus] went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day**". In Luke 13:10-17 & 14:1-6 we see Jesus approving of works of necessity, such as preparing food, caring for animals and works of mercy, such as caring for those who are ill. Jesus didn't use God's day for idle amusement, but for worshiping God and doing good. Since Jesus always kept the Sabbath day holy, He could die to take punishment for all the times we haven't kept the Sabbath holy.

God wants us to honour Him by using the time He has given us in a rhythm of six days

for work crowned by one day for rest and worship. The proper use of God's day, by God's people, has always been a powerful witness to those we live among.

The Sabbath isn't just about looking back to God's work in creation, redemption and the

resurrection, it's about looking forward to spending all eternity with Him.

This is why the prophet Isaiah encourages us to, "**Call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honourable**", Isaiah 58:13b.



Application

To be able to use God's day in the way God intended, we need to organise the rest of our week so that we have our normal work done and our leisure activities attended to.

What changes do you need to make to your week so that you have Sunday to rest and worship God?

Is there anything you need to give up so that you can keep God's day special for Him?

Are you causing other people to work by what you are choosing to do on God's day?

Ask God to forgive you for misusing His day. Also ask Him to give you a positive view of His day so that you use it for His glory and your good.

5. Parental Guidance Required



The Big Idea

Understanding that the Bible stresses the responsibility of parents to teach and discipline their children and the responsibility of children to honour their parents.



The Word

Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 23:22-25; Luke 2:41-52 & Ephesians 6:1-4

Introduction & Discussion

After four commandments about our relationship with God, we come to six commandments about our relationships with other people. The first of these commandments deals with our relationship with our parents. What do you think of your parents? What do you think of some of the rules your parents have for you?

Good parents always have the best interests of their children at heart. So, they establish rules that keep their children safe and healthy and they seek to provide what is beneficial for their children.



Lesson

In the fifth commandment, God told His people, **“Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”**

Exodus 20:12

To “honour” our parents means to have a high regard for them, so that we love and respect them. Showing respect will normally mean doing what we are told as a child, or young person. However, if a parent asks us to do something that is wrong then we should politely explain why we cannot do what they are asking. Honouring our parents will certainly involve spending time with them, helping them, talking to them, listening to them and respecting their views.

It is within the family that we learn respect for authority. So, if we do not show respect for our parents at home, then we will not respect authority at school, or in life generally.

God is a parent. He’s the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and of everyone who trusts Jesus to be their Saviour. So, family is important to God. It is God’s plan for one man and one woman, to join together in a lifelong commitment. If God blesses a married couple with a child, then they have the great responsibility to provide for and care for that child.

Family is the basic social unit. No nation is stable or strong where family life is weak. The family is also the basic spiritual unit, in which God expects parents to teach their children about Him.

We owe our parents a huge debt of gratitude for the years they have cared and provided for us. As our parents grow older, they will need us to care and provide for them, just like they did for us. We also need our parent’s guidance more than we realise and we impoverish ourselves by rejecting it. If we

ignore our parent's advice we miss out on their experience and we find it harder to honour our Father in Heaven.

Read Proverbs 23:22-25.

Family values are under attack in our society leading to broken and sad homes. The only way to reverse this is by obeying God's plan for the family.

Read Ephesians 6:1-4.

According to Luke 2:51, Jesus always was submissive to His earthly parents, Joseph and Mary. Jesus also obeyed His Heavenly Father's will by dying to take the punishment for all the times that we've disobeyed our parents.



Application

Do you speak kindly to your parents and about them? Or, do you criticise, mock, and insult your parents because you think they are clueless old fuddy-duddies?

What can you do, or say, to make your relationship with your parents better? When we love the Lord, we'll want to honour our parents.

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Colossians 3:20.

Ask God to forgive you for the times you have dishonoured your parents. Also ask Him to help you to love, respect, help, and care for your parents.



Memory Verse

Mark 12:31 (ESV)

The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.

Leader's note:

Please be aware of family backgrounds as these may well be varied and be sensitive to difficult or delicate situations. If you are a parent of a boy in your group it might be better to ask someone else to deliver this talk.

6. Life Is Precious



The Big Idea

Life is precious to God. The Bible forbids unlawful killing. Our thoughts are as harmful as our actions.



The Word

Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17 & Matthew 5: 21-26

Introduction & Discussion

We live in a disposable age. Name some examples of disposable items currently in everyday use: (Possible answers might include: disposable razors, disposable contact lenses, disposable nappies, disposable pens, disposable cameras).

Life is not disposable! Life is precious to God. Christians therefore need to promote life and proactively protest that human life is not disposable!



Lesson

The sixth commandment appears to be the one that nearly everyone is in agreement with. Few will openly come out and say that murder is acceptable. However when we look at the reality, rather than valuing life, it is often regarded as cheap. While we must be careful in talking about these matters we must realise that this commandment is about abortion, euthanasia, suicide and other issues.

Why is life precious?

- i) God is the author of life and every human being is created in the image of God. (Genesis 1:27).

What does this mean?

We have creativity; we are able to communicate; we have minds to think with; we have an eternal soul.

- ii) Life is also a gift from God (Genesis 2:7). Only God has the right to end life (Deuteronomy 32:39; Job 14:5; Psalm 139: 13-16).

Mankind however is fallen – this means we are hostile to God and His rule in our lives. We are under His judgment yet we foolishly think we are master of our own destinies. This results in hopelessness and emptiness. Life is meaningless and therefore of little value. When life is valueless, it takes little to remove it.

The Bible forbids murder/ unlawful killing- hence, **“You shall not murder”** Exodus 20:13. This includes manslaughter, crimes of passion, euthanasia, abortion etc.

From a positive perspective the sixth Commandment encourages us to promote and preserve life.



Application

Medical students were attending a seminar on abortion when the lecturer confronted them with a case study.

“The father and mother were both seriously ill. They have had four children already. The first is blind, the second died, the third is deaf and dumb and the fourth has tuberculosis. The mother is now pregnant with her fifth child and is willing to have an abortion. What would your advice be?”

The students overwhelmingly voted to terminate the pregnancy. To this the lecturer responded, “Congratulations, you have just murdered Beethoven!”

- i) Discuss how Bible believing Christians should react to possible changes in the law concerning abortion and euthanasia in N. Ireland.
- ii) Most boys would probably say “I’ve never killed anyone.” Encourage them to think through the implications of watching violence / murder scenes on television or playing games which encourage killing.
- iii) What about “Murder of the heart”? Jesus says in the Sermon on the Mount that anger and abusive speech are just as

bad as the literal act of murder (Matthew 5:22). This includes wishing someone harm, holding grudges and harmful gossip.

Remind the boys that God is a God of grace! Presuming no one has killed anyone unlawfully, we are all guilty of murder of the heart. The answer to our sinful heart condition is found at the Cross. Jesus Christ was murdered, killed unlawfully so that we might be forgiven of all sin. The just died for the unjust that He might bring us to God .

Encourage the boys to repent of all sin, including murder of the heart, and yield to the lordship of King Jesus.

- iv) What else can we do?
Be peacemakers (Matthew 5:9)
Pray for world trouble spots.
Help by contributing to practical relief.
Be the Good Samaritan, loving our neighbour.

Philip Ryken: “God has put His stamp on every one of us the way in which a great artist signs his name to a piece of art. To damage a life is to deface one of God’s masterpieces.”



Memory Verse

Matthew 15:19 (ESV)

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

7. The Perfect Plan



The Big Idea

Sex is a precious gift from God. It should be used within the context of marriage.



The Word

Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18 & Matthew 5: 27-32

Introduction & Discussion

Henry Ford was questioned on his 50th wedding anniversary about the secret to marital bliss and longevity in marriage. Ford's reply was simple, "It's just the same as in the automobile business, (He said)... stick to one model."

The Authorised Version of the Bible was first published in 1611 and was to become the popular English translation for several centuries. In 1631 the printers made a mistake by leaving out the word "not" from the 7th Commandment. Imagine the reaction as people read "You shall commit adultery". The printer was fined £300 and that edition of the Bible became known as "The Wicked Bible". Do you think that such a mistake

would draw a similar reaction today? Why? Why not? Today adultery and sexual activity outside of marriage is considered as normal practice. Celebrities from the world of sport, television and pop are renowned for marriage break-ups and adultery. TV and film present sexual activity outside of marriage as normal behaviour. Even education programmes at schools and colleges promote safer sex for younger people rather than teaching the virtue of celibacy before marriage.

The Bible shows how sex was given by God for the pleasure of human beings, to be enjoyed within the context of marriage between one man and one woman.



Lesson

The seventh commandment teaches:

- The high value God places on marriage as the cornerstone of a stable society.
- Sex belongs to the marriage covenant.
- Any sex outside of marriage is sinful.

What is marriage?

Marriage is about one man and one woman being united together in love and friendship for as long as they both shall live. It is a Creation ordinance (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:24-25).

One flesh is the perfect union between male and female in marriage. Sex within marriage

is healthy and good: it is a gift from God which gives pleasure and produces children. In the beginning God created man and woman to be complementary, thus able to enjoy and satisfy their natural longings.

Adultery is a denial of marriage promises; it introduces a third party, creating tension, deceit and hurt. To commit adultery is to sin against God, our own body, our partner in marriage, the partner in the affair and perhaps also that person's spouse. It creates a web of sin and has serious consequences for all parties concerned.



Application

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus taught that like the sixth Commandment, the seventh is not just about the act of adultery itself - it is also a matter of the heart. Many boys like to look at beautiful girls and vice versa but when these looks include sexual thoughts and immoral ideas then this commandment is broken (Matthew 5:27).

In 2 Samuel 11, King David looked lustfully at a beautiful woman called Bathsheba and ended up committing adultery with her. He even murdered her husband to try to cover up his actions. In contrast, Joseph may have been attracted to Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39) but he refused her invitations and ran away because he did not want to betray his master's trust or sin against God.

Jesus showed that adultery includes every form of impure or immoral word, thought or action. What we watch or read will affect what we think, say and do.

"Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths," Ephesians 4: 29.

"Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you." Proverbs 4:25.

"I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?" Job 31:1

Questions:

What might you watch or read that could

affect your thoughts and behavior in a sinful way? How can you act to counter wrong thoughts or emotions?

When tempted by lust and sexual thoughts which sort of action should you take?

- a) Linger like David and regret it?
- b) Run away like Joseph and avoid the temptation?

Having affection and feelings for girls is natural but controlling those feelings can be difficult. How can you avoid your emotions from taking control of your actions?

Some practical suggestions:

- Safety in numbers- enjoy the company of friends, male and female.
- Avoid being alone with a girl in a situation of temptation that could test your self-discipline.
- Remember the teaching of the Bible to live pure lives (Psalm 119: 9,11)

David committed adultery but later repented and cried to God for forgiveness (Psalm 51). Remember that when we do fall into sin of any kind there is grace to be found in the Lord Jesus. This is not a license to sin and then say sorry but that we might know that with true repentance there is forgiveness from God. (1 John 1:9).

Brian Edwards: "The professing Christian who fails at the 7th Commandment drags the reputation of Christ down into the world's gutter."



Memory Verse

Matthew 15:19

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

8. Daylight Robbery



The Big Idea

The Bible teaches the highest standards of respect for other people's property.



The Word

Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 5:19 & Matthew 6:19-21

Introduction & Discussion

Northern Ireland has suffered an "epidemic" of criminal attacks on cash machines (ATMs) in recent years. Thieves have used stolen diggers and tractors to rip up cash machines in various locations, causing great financial loss and hurt to many parties.

Discuss:

How does theft impact all parties involved?

What other forms of theft are most prevalent in 21st century Britain?



Lesson

The eighth commandment teaches "**You shall not Steal**". In this commandment God underlines the basic ownership rights of every human being. God gives to each one of us all that we need and when we take something that doesn't rightly belong to us we are sinning against God as well as our neighbour. Theft is a failure to trust in God's practical provision for our needs and also an assault on God's generous providence for others.

Forms of Stealing

- i) Direct theft: burglary, shoplifting, pick-pocketing, mugging, hijacking, stealing from BB tuck shop, school canteen, money from family.
- ii) Indirect theft:
 - a) *By an employee*: being idle at work; phoning in "sick"; using the phone during work hours to make personal calls; taking things from our workplace; etc.
 - b) *By an employer*: failing to pay adequate wages to employees; falsely inflating the value of services or goods they provide.
 - iii) Deceitful dealing: falsifying tax returns; false/ creative accounting; false grant applications, false claims for Social Security Benefits; exaggerating insurance claims; failing to pay road tax, car insurance; TV Licence; etc.
 - iv) Delayed payments: delays or failure to pay bills promptly for work done or items purchased.
 - v) Other subtle forms of stealing: borrowing (eg books and never returning them); abusing use of streaming services; illegally downloading music; stealing another person's reputation (eg slandering their name); plagiarism when doing homework, coursework.



Application

The commandment “You shall not steal” therefore has a much wider application than merely direct theft. Recap Memory verse:

Matthew 15:19, **“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.”**

This commandment also examines our “heart attitude” towards God. We must be careful not to steal from / rob God. On a positive note it encourages us to give to God the best of our time, talents and money.

Discuss:

- i) How can we be careful to give quality time to God? (Think through how the boys invest time in school, leisure, TV etc and consider time given to God—reading His Word, praying, attending Sunday worship, Youth fellowship etc).
- ii) How can we be careful to honour God with our talents? (Encourage the boys in school or work to do all for the glory of God (Colossians 3:23). Think through how the boys might use their gifts for God’s glory in future service.)
- iii) What about our money (income/ resources)? (Teach the boys the importance of generous Christian giving, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

Most importantly God wants us to give Him our lives (Matthew 6:19-21).

The blessing of the eighth commandment is again the grace of God.

The death of the Lord Jesus Christ took place on a centre cross between two thieves. In His crucifixion Jesus Himself was even considered a thief. However, when He died on the cross Jesus died for thieves, so that every thief who repents and trusts in Him will be saved. The first thief to be saved was one who hung next to Him on the cross. The good news is that every sinner, whether they be a thief, an adulterer or a murderer can be saved if they trust in Christ alone for the forgiveness of their sin.

Challenge boys: Have you trusted in Jesus?

Romans 10:13, **“...everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”**

Acts 4:12, **“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”**

9. Tell The Truth



The Big Idea

The truthfulness of God demands that society also abides by truth. We are to be people of honesty and integrity.



The Word

Exodus 20:16 & Deuteronomy 5:20

Introduction & Discussion

Encourage everyone to think about their own standard of truthfulness to God, to themselves and to one another. Show how honesty and truthfulness develops society into being a more just and fair society for all.

If time permits, set up a 'panel' of three people to share the same word, but they will give three different meanings. One will be true and the other two totally wrong. Who is telling the truth? The Boys guess.



Lesson

The ninth commandment tells us, "**You shall not bear false witness**".

It is so natural for all of us to tell lies. Satan does it right at the beginning of Creation when he spoke to Eve about taking the fruit from the tree. We continue to do that today. We tell untruths to keep ourselves from trouble – lie about why the homework is not handed in on time! Who broke that precious ornament, or the window? We will think up some excuse to get us off the hook and even put the blame on to others. Many lie and cheat to gain money for themselves. Some will falsify facts to misrepresent and deceive others.

Think about a time when you told a lie to cover your tracks. Was it the best decision?

This commandment teaches us that we are to speak truth at all times. However we find it very difficult to always speak the truth. The Scriptures highlight what takes place

when we tell lies:

Proverbs 19:9, "**A false witness will not go unpunished.**"

Proverbs 24:28, "**Be not a witness against your neighbour without cause, and do not deceive with your lips.**"

The Book of Psalms covers this topic in Psalm 10:7 and Psalm 59:12-13. You can also refer to Jeremiah 9:5 & 8.

So the problem lies within us – God wants us to speak the truth – hence this command, but we are not like that, we find it easier to tell lies than speak the truth. It often is the case that we have to tell more lies to make sure that we do not get the blame! We tell another lie to cover the last one told. In James 1:26 we read that if we do not bridle our tongue, much hurt will come from it to ourselves and indeed to others.

The problem is within us. Because of our sinful hearts, we are open to temptation to tell lies to protect our own lives. Satan will always take advantage of the situation. Jesus called Satan, 'The father of lies'.

We should always look to Jesus to see what He did – He never sinned once – He always spoke the truth. When the Bible tells us how to live, we should take a serious look at what

it says and also what our lives are like in comparison with God's ways.

We are to tell the truth at all times. We should want to be known as a person who can be trusted all the time – known as a person who will always speak the truth no matter what the outcome is. We know that anyone who always tells lies is not a person to be trusted and indeed not a good friend to have.



Application

Some of us will need a reference written for us in the future. It might be for a job, or university, or serving on a summer team. When we ask someone to write a reference we are expecting them to be honest about our character and nature, our skills and abilities. Can they write honestly about us?

Suggested activity: Get the boys to write a reference for another boy in the group. You could make up some questions: Can they be trusted with money? Can they be trusted not to tell lies? Can they be trusted not to pass on confidential information? etc.

The command asks us not to bring false witness against anyone - but to speak the truth at all times about others, and also about ourselves as well. HireRight Inc. is an American background screening company; they came out with a statistic that seems unbelievable. 85% of people lie about themselves when it comes to their CV or job applications. It is pretty certain many of those who told lies about themselves were

found out and did not get the job they applied for. Here are few examples of people telling lies on their CV's or job applications:

An applicant said he worked at Microsoft but didn't know who Bill Gates was.

An applicant said he studied under Nietzsche (Friedrich Nietzsche stopped teaching in 1879 and died in 1900).

An applicant lied and said they had a credential when applying for a job at the organisation that grants the credential. Oops!

An applicant submitted a random CV they pulled from the internet that didn't even match the cover letter.

An applicant claimed to have created a computer code actually written by the person who was hiring them.

(source: Business Insider Australia):

Our community, indeed our world will always benefit from people who abide by this commandment. Be honest.

10. I Want That



The Big Idea

To know the difference of wanting what is right and good for our lives and wanting what is bad for our lives.



The Word

Exodus 20:17 & Deuteronomy 5:21

Introduction & Discussion

What does the tenth commandment mean in a world where we have young people doing life in the virtual world and the real world? It means more than wanting a new smartphone, laptop, car or any physical tangible item. Over the last 10 years digital advertising has grown from 8% to 48% and continues to rise (UK Parliament). Many young people are avid followers of 'influencers'; social media stars who are paid by companies in cash or products to feature their latest must haves. Today's young people are constantly bombarded with products they never realised they 'needed'.

With young people spending more and more time on smart devices this means their exposure to advertising and products is constantly on the rise. Young people live in a society of "I Want That". With a desire to avoid delay or the ability to wait, it's a requirement to get products and services instantly. The advances of technology have enabled a society of instant gratification. We also confuse want

with need. In many cases we will say, "I need that".

This doesn't just apply to consumerism, it applies to our lives as well, through image, sport, hobbies, education and careers. We want to achieve and be successful and instantly with no delays. These wants can be of human and selfish want and can confuse us of what God wants in our lives.

"You shall not covet" challenges a massive part of a young person's life. Young people want an Instagram perfect life. A life that they can put on a social media platform to showcase so-called perfection through possessions, body image, family, experiences, success and through their lives. We can tend to think of possessions and material items in this commandment but for young people this is coveting what they perceived as a perfect life through not only celebrities or influencers on social media but in fact their own peers.



Lesson

The tenth commandment focuses on the attitude of the heart. What are my motives? What desires underlie our actions. So, we begin to realise that God searches our hearts and examines our minds.

Psalms 139: 23 – 24 are useful verses to read out.

What does the tenth commandment require from us?

You shall NOT covet this, or that, or anything else – be content with what you have. This commandment suggests that you should never want things that other people have. It goes right to the core of what our inner

desires are and how they motivate our will.

Jeremiah denounced those who were greedy for gain (Jeremiah 6:13). Their eyes and heart were set on dishonest gain (Jeremiah 22:17). Habakkuk was against those who wanted to build by unjust gain (Habakkuk 2:9).

Can we say that we have never been envious of another person's possessions? To desire, to seek, to acquire or to hold unjust or dishonest gain is sinful. It involves our attitude to things and people, which is probably displacing the Lord from the first place in our lives.

Proverbs 15:27

"Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household, but he who hates bribes will live."

Proverbs 28:16b

"...he who hates unjust gain will prolong his days."

This affects everyone – rich or poor alike. How? The rich might become totally consumed with their material success that they forget their own spiritual lives – and the One who gave them all things! The poor will be tempted to put their trust and hope in wealth, rather than God.

Jesus once talked about a sower going out to sow seed and in some cases weeds grew faster and choked the real life of the plant. We should not allow those things to dominate our lives.



Application

1. Contentment with godliness is great gain - it does not come from having the latest things. So much of our frustration in life comes from wanting things that God has not given us. We can say, "If only ..." Joni Eareckson Tada, a Christian writer, who was paralysed in a diving accident when she was 17 said: "It is better to be in a wheelchair with God, than able to walk without Him." Remember, God is able to provide for us.
2. How can we seek to keep this commandment? Ask yourself this question: "Who, or what, do I worship?" What we worship is that which is most important to us. The Bible says we are to worship God; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Is it God we are worshipping, or things? It is better to have Jesus as Saviour than all the things of this world? **"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"** Matthew 16:26
3. The secret of contentment is wanting what God wants for us rather than what we want. Jesus should be enough for us – His smile and His blessings in our lives. We are called to "glorify God & enjoy Him forever."

Memory Verses

Matthew 15:19 (ESV)

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

John 4:24(ESV)

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Mark 12:30 (ESV)

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

Mark 12:31 (ESV)

The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.

