

WEEK 1

# God's Rules

## Memory Verse

"If you love me, obey my commandments." (*John 14:15 NLT*)

"If you love me, you will obey what I command." (*John 14:15 NIV*)

"If you love Me, keep My commandments." (*John 14:15 NKJV*)

## Lesson Objective

As a result of this lesson, students will understand why rules are important and why they should obey God's rules.

## Bible Basis

Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 5:17-19

## Materials Needed

### Getting Started

- Six to eight rules commonly known to students, printed on index cards
- Bag of marbles

### Large Group Time

- Enlarged copy of the Ten Commandments on poster or tag board (A mini-poster of the Ten Commandments is included in your kit.)
- 2 teenage or adult "actors"
- copies of script

### Closing Activity

- A copy of the Ten Commandments poster for each student in grades 3-5
- Copy of the "Love-Obey" poster for each student in kindergarten-grade 2
- Bonus Bucks sample





## Getting Started (10-15 Minutes)

### Leader Notes

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HAVE THE SIX TO EIGHT RULES printed on index cards, ready to hand out to student volunteers. (Some ideas are: No bike riding, wash hands before eating, quiet in the library, walk in the halls, do not feed the animals, look both ways, stop on red, take turns, and so on.)

When everyone has arrived and settled in, pass out the papers. Have each student take a turn reading what's on his or her paper to the others. Then ask: **What would you call what you just read?** (*Rules*). **Why do we need these rules?** (*They keep us safe, keep us healthy, show consideration for other people, and help us get along with others.*)

To emphasize why rules are needed, play a game with no rules. Have two volunteers come up and hand them a bag of marbles. Say: **I want you to play this marbles game on the count of three . . .** Don't give them any more instructions than that and see what happens. As students question you, keep repeating, **I want you to play the game.** What's the matter? Let this continue for a minute or so (they should get the point quickly), then discuss with the students what just happened.

Ask, **What would happen if there were no rules at all?** If the students don't bring it up, point out that it might sound great to have absolutely no rules, but in fact, it would really be terrible. **A world with no rules would be very dangerous, unhealthy, and downright scary. Imagine driving around town if people didn't have to obey stoplights or other signs. What would happen in school if everyone was allowed to talk at the same time, or if they could get up and leave whenever they wanted? Rules help create boundaries for us and keep us safe. In the next weeks we are going to be learning about some very special rules that God has given us. Those rules are called the Ten Commandments.**



## Large Group Time (10-15 Minutes)

AHEAD OF TIME, make a copy of the Ten Commandments (page XX in the leader's guide). Enlarge the copy and make into a poster by attaching it to a piece of heavy paper or tagboard. Place the poster in a prominent place so that it can be referred to on a weekly basis as each commandment is studied. Give copies of the script below to your actors.

Direct attention to the Ten Commandments poster. As a group, read the commandments aloud. With younger students, you



# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS



**1** Do not worship any other gods beside me.

**2** Do not make idols of any kind.

**3** Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

**4** Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

**5** Honor your father and mother.

**6** Do not murder.

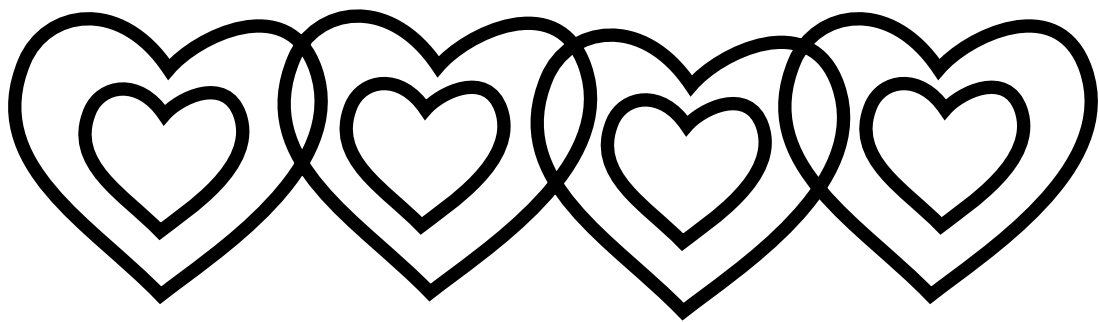
**7** Do not commit adultery.

**8** Do not steal.

**9** Do not testify falsely against your neighbor.

**10** Do not covet.

If you love  
me, obey my  
commands.



John 14:15