



Lesson Three

Worship God in His Way



Growing as a Teacher

Scripture

Exodus 20:4–6
Exodus 32:1–20; 34:1–11

Bible Truth

The second commandment speaks out against idol worship.

Bible Story

- The people of Israel disobey God and worship the golden calf.

Lesson Aim

To worship God in God's way.

Memory Work

Review:

MATTHEW 22:37–39

EXODUS 20:3, NKJV

First Catechism Q/A 85

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image.”

EXODUS 20:4a, NKJV

First Catechism

- 87 Q. What does the second commandment teach you?
- A. To worship God only as he commands, and not to worship God by using statues or pictures.

The first commandment teaches that there is only one true God and that we are to worship him only. But that is not all that God requires. No, we must also know *how* God wants us to worship him, and that is the substance of the second commandment.

Even when the Israelites professed willingness to follow the one true God, they sometimes fashioned their own sacred images, believing that their devotion and worship would have Yahweh's approval (1 Kings 12:28–30; 14:9). In reality, however, they were drawn away from worshipping the living God by their own self-willed behavior.

Today we are not tempted to make an image in the form of a golden calf to help us worship God. These things do not belong to true faith, worship and obedience to God. But the making of false images, pictures or representations of God is not only a danger for others, it is also possible for us to fashion false images of God even in our minds.

John Calvin once said that human sinfulness is such that the minds of men are often “factories of idolatry,” meaning that as soon as we imagine God to be other than what he really is, we have already broken the second commandment. Modernistic churches where the Bible is no longer regarded as the inerrant Word of God and where God is thought of (or imagined) as only a god of love are examples of this.

What “images” and “idols” seduce you into false worship? What keeps you from purity and holiness in the worship of God? God wants us to worship him alone. He also wants us to do so in the way he has appointed in his Word. He is a Spirit, and he wants us to worship him “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24).

We can worship God in his way only by God's grace and the Holy Spirit's help. Our prayer should be: “Lord, teach us how to offer up acceptable worship!”

As you prepare the lesson for this week, pray this for yourself. And as you pray for your students, ask God to make them sensitive to the importance of worshipping him in the way he requires, so that as they grow up, they will not accept practices of worship that are outside his will.

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Lesson Three at a Glance

Step	Minutes	Children's Activities	Supplies (complete list, p. 11)
1 Welcome	5–10	Compose a psalm of praise to God for his love and his law.	<input type="checkbox"/> Large sheet of poster board <input type="checkbox"/> Markers or crayons
2 Bible Time	15–20	Listen to how Israel broke God's law by worshipping an idol.	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 3 Golden Calf*
3 Memory Work	5–10	Do <i>Fill in the Blanks</i> to review memory work learned so far. Memorize Exodus 20:4a and <i>First Catechism Q/A 87</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 1a poster** <input type="checkbox"/> Q/A 87 sticker**
4 Activities	10–15	Do activities that help us know how to worship God. Make a Ten Commandments folder to review God's law.	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>At Home 3</i> ** <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils, markers or crayons <input type="checkbox"/> SA 3 folder** (2 sheets) <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors, glue
5 Final Focus	5	13 Sing "Love the Lord with All Your Heart and Soul" (Songbook, p. 28). Say the psalm of praise composed during Welcome.	<input type="checkbox"/> Songbook <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Optional</i> : song poster and <i>Younger Elementary Vol. 2 CD</i>

Total time: 40–60 minutes

* *Younger Elementary Teaching Aids Pack*
 ** *Younger Elementary Student Activities Pack*



Enrichment

Write the words *We Worship God in God's Way* across the top of a large sheet of paper. Now tell the children to draw and color below the words pictures that show ways to worship God in his way. Have the children write captions (or you can write down their words) describing their pictures.



Order CD and/or extra Songbooks from Great Commission Publications at 800-695-3387 or www.gcp.org.



Practical Preparation

Gather all that is required to teach the lesson. Note that you will need a large sheet of poster board (or a chalkboard) on which to write the words of the psalm of praise that the children will compose during the **Welcome** step. Study the Bible story based on Exodus 32:1–20 and 34:1–11. Be familiar with the sequence of events and lesson truths so that you are not tied to the manual as you tell the story.

Know all memory work so that you can easily lead the children through the review and memorization in the **Memory Work** step. Have a **Q/A 87 sticker** available to paste on **TA 1a Ten Commandments poster**.

Children will work on *At Home 3* activities during the fourth step. Be sure to have pencils and crayons or markers available for **Welcome** and **Activities**. Have one **SA 3 Ten Commandments folder (2 sheets)** available for each student. Make one ahead of time to show the children how to assemble the activity.

Once again this week you will sing the song "Love the Lord with All Your Heart and Soul."



Welcome

5–10 minutes

Take a large sheet of poster board and write the words *Psalm of Praise* at the top and the word *Amen* at the bottom. (You may also use a chalkboard for this activity.) *Tell the class* **We are going to write our own psalm of praise to thank God for his love for us and for his law. A psalm is a song of praise and worship to God.** Ask your children to help compose a psalm of praise by suggesting things they would most like to thank God for. Include ideas from each student, and write them on the poster. Encourage your students to thank God for his *love* and his *law*. You may have to question the children to help them remember truths they have learned so far this quarter: God’s covenant, God’s care for his children, God’s Word, the coming of Jesus to die for his people’s sins, and forgiveness and salvation.

Read the song of praise aloud when it is completed. *Then say* **A psalm may also be a prayer. At the end of the lesson, we will pray the psalm in worship to God, thanking him for his love and for his excellent commandments.**



Bible Time

15–20 minutes

Open your Bible to the Exodus passages (32:1–20; 34:1–11) and show the children where the Bible story is found.

Moses had been up on Mount Sinai for 40 days, listening as God gave him the Ten Commandments and other laws. The Israelites grew tired of waiting for Moses to return to them, so they gathered around Aaron the high priest.

“What has happened to this man Moses?” the people asked Aaron. “He brought us here from Egypt and then he disappeared. Make us some gods who can lead us.”

So Aaron told the people, “Bring me all the gold you can find, and I will give you what you ask for.”

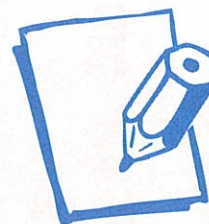
The Israelites brought Aaron their gold jewelry. He melted it down and molded it into the shape of a calf. When the people saw the golden idol, they shouted, “These are the gods that brought us out of Egypt!”

When Aaron saw how pleased the people were, he built an altar in front of the calf and said, “Tomorrow we will have a festival to the Lord right here.” Point out to the children that Aaron had

Early Arrivals



Make a memory work chart. List each child’s name and the memory work to be learned. As each memory work segment is mastered, have each child place a heart sticker (or draw and color a heart) in the appropriate box by his or her name. You might offer a special treat to those who learn all the work from a given segment.



The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Psalm 19:8



Danger

There is danger of worshipping other gods even when using the name of God, the only God, as the Israelites did with the calf. There is a danger of going through all the motions of worship, with the mind and emotions filled with other things, so that the whole thing is a farce.

Edith Schaeffer,
*Ten Things Parents Must Teach
Their Children*



Did You Know?

In ancient times, gods were fashioned in human or animal forms. Bulls, which were seen as symbols of power and fearlessness, were common among Egyptian and Canaanite gods. Israel's yearning for idols led them to make a golden bull-calf—a pagan image both familiar and appealing to them—only six weeks after making their sacred covenant with God.

done something terribly wrong. He had made an idol, a false representation of God, for the people—which was bad enough—but then he allowed them to worship it.

Early the next morning, the Israelites got up and offered sacrifices. Then they danced and feasted in front of the golden calf.

When God saw what the people were doing, he told Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of Egypt.'"

Moses asked the Lord to show mercy to Israel. "Please do not destroy all the people," Moses begged. "Remember the promises you have made to them." God heard what Moses said, and then sent him down the mountain carrying the two stone tablets with the words of the covenant written on them.

When Moses came near the camp, he saw the golden calf and the people dancing around it. Full of anger at what he saw, Moses threw the stone tablets to the ground, smashing them into pieces. He grabbed the golden image and tossed it into the flames, and then turned to Aaron. "How could you have let the people sin in this terrible way?" he wanted to know. *Show the children TA 3 Golden Calf.* Give them time to respond to the picture.

Very briefly, explain to the children that the sin of Israel could not go unpunished and that the Levites, Moses' own tribe, were the ones who carried out God's judgment against those who broke the law. Three thousand Israelites died, and once again Moses went before the Lord on behalf of his now repentant people. God's answer reveals that God did not go back on his promise.

After some time had passed, God told Moses to prepare two stone tablets like the first ones. "I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets," God said. Then he commanded Moses to go up to the top of Mount Sinai the next morning with the new stone tablets, making sure that no one else came near the mountain.

Moses did as God commanded, and when Israel's leader got to the top of the mountain, God arrived in a cloud of smoke. God said: "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished."

Moses bowed before the Lord and worshiped him. "Please forgive our sin, O Lord," he said, "Accept us as your people. Be with us and go before us."

God said, "I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the LORD, will do for you. Obey what I command you today!"

Point out to the children that even though we do not worship statues and idols, we do not always worship God in a proper manner. *Say True worship is worship that is true to the Bible. When we worship God in our own way rather than his, we are really imagining God falsely like the Israelites did with the golden calf. Spend a minute or two discussing other ways we give God false worship.*

Conclude by saying We are thankful that God cleanses our hearts from sin so that we *can* love and worship him in *his* way. Isn't it wonderful to have a Savior who died for all of our sins and who tells us how to worship and praise God!



Memory Work

5–10 minutes

Gather the children around you in a circle on the floor—as far away as possible from the TA 1a poster—and tell them that they are going to play a game called *Fill in the Blanks* to review the memory work learned so far. Explain to the children that you will say part of a verse, catechism question or answer, and that each time you will leave out a word. If they know the missing word, they should stand. You will call on one who stands up to say the missing word, and then the entire class can repeat this part of the memory work, including the missing word. For example, you might say: “Love the Lord your God with all your _____” (Matthew 22:37), and so on.

Be prepared to review *Matthew 22:37–39*, *Exodus 20:3* and *First Catechism Q/A 85* in this way. Know the memory work and refer to your Bible or this manual to lead the game.

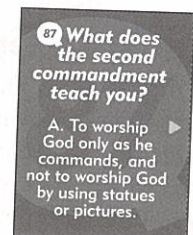
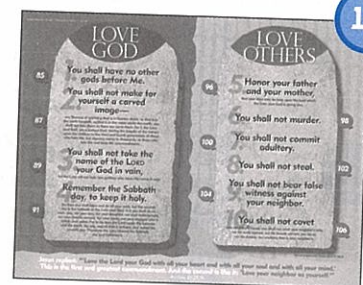
When you have completed the review game, have the children assemble at the TA 1a poster. Teach them the short version of the second commandment (*Exodus 20:4a*). Tell them they can memorize the rest of the commandment at home with their parents if they wish.

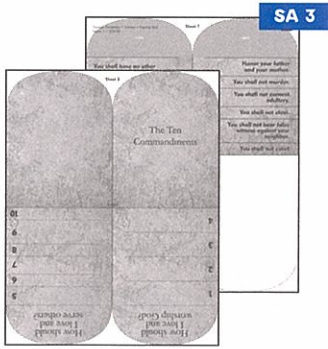
Ask a student to paste *First Catechism Q/A 87* sticker on the poster. *Have someone read the question* What does the second commandment teach you?

Read the answer aloud. “To worship God only as he commands, and not to worship God by using statues or pictures.” *Explain that* We do not need statues to help us worship God. And we cannot draw a picture of God because he is a spirit. We do not know what he looks like. A picture does not help us either.

God wants us to worship him in *his* way—the way he has told us in his Word. He wants us to think about how powerful, good and loving he is. We are to love God and worship him from our hearts.

Repeat the new memory work once or twice, then tell the students to continue to learn it during the week at home.





4

Activities

10–15 minutes

Give each child a copy of *At Home 3*, a pencil and crayons or markers. Read aloud the title and directions for the part(s) you choose to do.

In *True or False*, read aloud each speech bubble and discuss the heart attitude. Decide whether to mark out or color the picture.

In *Worship from Our Hearts*, read aloud each question and statement. Help the children find and mark the correct answers. **Answers: 1. b, c; 2. b; 3. a, b, c; 4. a, c**

Hand out SA 3 Ten Commandments folder (2 sheets), scissors and glue. Follow these instructions to complete the folder.

1. Have the children cut along the dotted lines to cut out the tablets.
2. Cut along the dotted lines between numbers 1–10, making sure not to cut to the center line.
3. Apply glue to the gray areas labeled “paste” on Sheet 1.
4. Lay Sheet 2 on Sheet 1 to glue them together.
5. Fold along Fold A so “The Ten Commandments” title is showing.
6. Fold along Fold B to make a booklet. Children may review the commandments by lifting each flap.

13 “Love the Lord with All Your Heart and Soul”
Songbook, p. 28



Teaching Tip

If many of your children are emerging readers, they may not be able to read the psalm composed earlier. You may need to read it phrase by phrase, pointing as you read, having them echo the words as you point at them a second time, then moving on to the next phrase.



Items to Send Home

- SA 3 Ten Commandments folder
- At Home 3*

5

Final Focus

5 minutes

Sing “Love the Lord with All Your Heart and Soul.” The children should now be very familiar with this song and be able to sing it easily. Remind the children to think about the words as they sing. Tell the children that God enjoys hearing the praises of his children.

To conclude the lesson, point to the psalm of praise the children composed during the *Welcome* step. Remind the children that a psalm may be a song or a prayer. **Say We will say the psalm together as a prayer of worship to God, thanking him for his love and for his Word.** Everyone will read the psalm the children composed, then you will close with a sentence prayer, asking God for help to put him first and worship him in *his* way.

Remind the students to review the memory work on the front of the *At Home 3* papers with their families and to read the story on the back. Make sure everyone has his or her SA 3 Ten Commandments folder.