

# Lesson 2

## No Other Gods; No Idols

### Bible Lesson

Last week, we learned about the 10 commandments and how God gave them to us because He loves us, wants to protect us, and wants us to have a successful and joyful life. It is not easy to follow all of these rules, but we must obey and trust what He says.

Let's look at the very first commandment. Turn to [Exodus 20:3](#) and read the verse. The first commandment says, "Have no other gods but me." The Israelites were rescued from Egypt, a land that believed in many gods. The Israelites were slaves for 400 years, so they were used to being around people who worshipped a number of gods. For example, the Egyptians believed there was a god of the sky, a god of the dead, a god of the River Nile, a god of war, a god of love, and hundreds more. When God delivered the Israelites out of slavery, He really wanted them to know that He was the one and only true God. This was of utmost importance, which is why this is the number one commandment.

God is the one and only TRUE God. He created us, loves us, and is powerful enough to help us through everything. Following false gods will not help us, and will only lead us down the wrong path. We were created to worship God and have a relationship with Him. When we don't do what we were created to do, we will not be happy.

Let's look at these examples:

- What kind of environment are fish most happy? (In the water)
- What kind of environment are birds most happy? (In the air)
- Would your fish like it if you put a leash on it and took it for a walk? (NO! Fish were created to swim.)
- Would your cat like it if you threw it into the ocean to swim? (NO! Cats were created to be on land)

Likewise, humans were created to worship God and have a relationship with Him, our Heavenly Father. When we don't do what we were created to do, and we are far away from God, we will be like a fish out of water. We will feel very unhappy.

This leads to the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment. Let's read [Exodus 20:4-6](#). The second commandment says, Don't worship idols. Nowadays, the word "Idol" means something good. There is a show called, "American Idol." There are also many sports idols. Today, we think of idols as people we look up to and admire. But we need to be careful.

For Christians, an idol is anything that we place above God. If we place our trust in money, then money is an idol. If all we can think about is winning in a video game, then the game has become our idol. When we are sad and we don't talk to God about it, but instead look to TV or Youtube to make us feel better, then our TV, tablets, or smart phones have become an idol. Whenever we put anything ahead of our relationship with God, or care more about things or people, they become idols in our lives. These idols cannot help us.

When the Israelites were at the base of Mount Sinai, waiting for Moses to come down with the 10 Commandments, they got tired of waiting to hear what God had to say, so they created a statue of a golden cow to worship. We all know that a gold statue of a small cow cannot help anyone, but they trusted that more than they trusted God. We are like that too. Sometimes we cannot or do not want to wait for God, so we try to fill our own lives by worshipping other people or things.

## *Note to Parents*

*Here is an object lesson that you can do to help your child(ren) understand today's lesson.*

*Prepare an empty glass, set aside a number of rocks, and a pitcher of water.*

*Read aloud:*

Take a look at this empty glass. This represents our heart. In every heart, we have all this space. *(Hold up empty glass.)* God created our hearts to be filled with Him. Remember, God created us to worship Him and have a relationship with Him and enjoy him forever.

But instead of filling our hearts with God, we often fill it with other things – our idols. What are some idols that we have? – cars, friends, money, grades, shopping, toys, clothes, sports, TV shows, food, video games, etc. *[As your child(ren) list out examples, place the rocks into the jar one by one. Stop when the jar is full].*

*(Hold up the jar filled with rocks)* The list of things we think will make us happy is endless, and these things do make us happy for a little while – but it won't last. When our lives are full of these things, there isn't room for God. The fact of the matter is that none of these things truly fill us. Look, we still have all this empty space! *(Point out the empty spaces between the rocks).* But watch this. When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and become our Savior and Friend, his Holy Spirit fills our lives completely. *(Pour the water from the pitcher into the glass.)* And as we grow to know Jesus and be more like him, we will want to make more room for him in our lives because He alone makes us truly happy. We will want to get rid of those things in our hearts that take his place. *(Take out the rocks one by one and as you remove them, list out some of the examples they mentioned – money, grades, school, toys, food, sports, etc.).*

When we remove these idols that we've placed ahead of God, there is so much more room for Jesus to live in our Hearts! *(Pour the water into the glass to fill it up).*

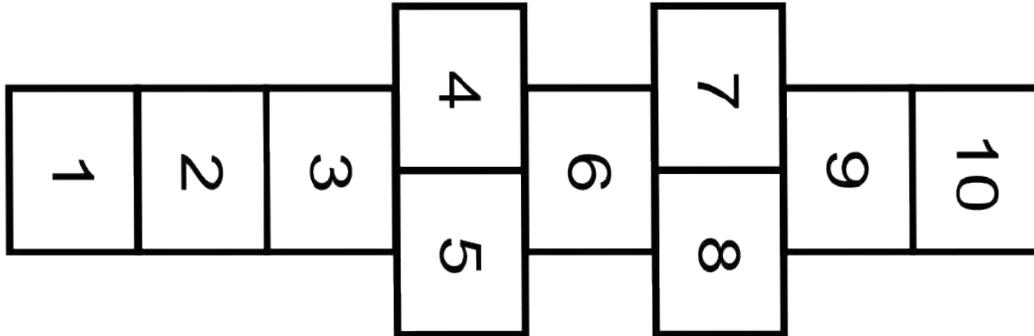
Because Jesus died on the cross and took the punishment for our sins, He made peace with God for us. We can now go directly to God when we pray. We do not need to look to anything else to fill our hearts.

**Pray** – Dear Jesus, thank you for taking our punishment by dying on the cross for our sins. Please fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit and give us joy, peace, and love. Forgive us for filling our hearts with idols. We want to remove them so that there is more room for you. Help us to know you more. In your name we pray, Amen.

## Outdoor Activity

### Staying Within the Lines – Hopscotch

Use sidewalk chalk and draw a hopscotch pattern on the ground.



Hop on one foot from one square to another across the grid. When you get to boxes 4 & 5 (and again in 7 & 8), you can put both feet down – left foot on one square and right foot on the other square. When you get to square 10, turn around, while staying on one foot in the square, and then make the return trip back to the starting point.

#### Rules:

1. Watch your feet while jumping to make sure they stay within the lines. If your feet touch the line or you step out of bounds, you are to start over from Square 1.
2. On the way to square 10, recite the 1<sup>st</sup> commandment (You shall have no other gods before me). On the way back, recite the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment (You shall not make idols).

## Conclusion

The Hopscotch game we just played is symbolic of our lives. God gave us rules to help guide our path. This is represented by the lines in the game. As we go through our lives, we must try our best to stay within the lines. As long as we stay within the lines, focusing on God and his promises, we will complete our mission and have a successful and joyful life.

#### Discussion Questions:

- 1) While you were hopping along, was it hard to concentrate on jumping and saying the commandment at the same time?
- 2) How is the second commandment related to the first commandment, which says, "Have no other gods?"  
(Anything that we care about can become an idol or another god; it doesn't have to be a stone statue. Whenever we let anything, anyone, or any desire come before God, or take the place of God in our hearts and minds, that is idol worship.)
- 3) What are some things we can do to help remind us of these two commandments?

Remember – God is Number 1. We should not have any other gods before him, and we should not make for ourselves any idols.

Here is a silly picture to help us remember the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment. On your coloring sheet, do the following:

For #1, write "GOD" in the middle of the number, 1

For #2, Draw a face, ears, and horns on the number, 2, to make it look a cow. The Israelites worshipped a golden cow.

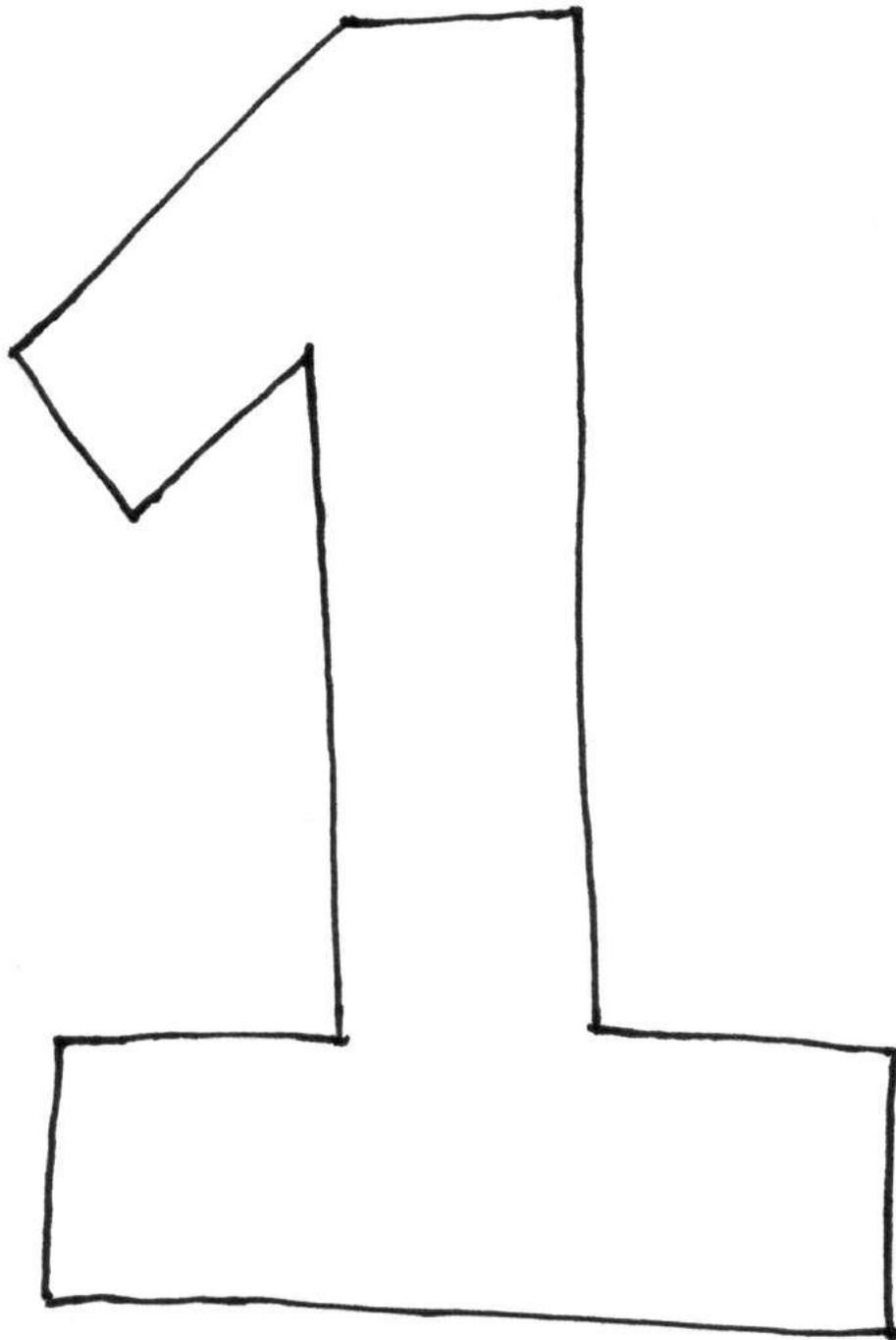
Write down the corresponding commandments in the blanks.



Commandment 1: **No Other Gods**



Commandment 2: **No idols**



**Commandment 1:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Commandment 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

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