

Lesson 2: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Ex. 20:1-18

READING: Exodus 19:16-25 and 20: 1-18

DISCUSSION:

The 10 Commandments show us how to love the Lord and how to love the neighbor. The first 3 commandments talk about the Lord, the last 6 about the neighbor, and the fourth—honor your father and mother—about both the Lord and the neighbor because loving our earthly parents paves the way for loving our heavenly parents (the Lord and the church). These are the Lord's laws and they are for all people. They protect us from hell and show us the way to heaven. If everyone followed these commandments, then we would not have so much unhappiness in our world today.

PROJECT IDEAS:

The Ten Commandments

(see attached template and instructions from General Church Education)

Make a model of the Ten Commandments that shows how the first table is about loving the Lord (the first great commandment) and the second table is about loving the neighbor (the second great commandment).

Reading Hebrew

Show the students how two words in the Ten Commandments are written in Hebrew:

Jehovah [Yehowah]

יהוה
יְהוָה

your neighbor [ray'eh-ka]

רֵעֶךָ
רֵעֵךְ

Singing Hebrew

Sing "All That the Lord Has Spoken" in Hebrew.

"Kol a - sher dib - ber, Y-HO-WAH na- 'a - se w – nish - ma."

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"Hebrew" Writing Activity

Give each student one verse from the reading (see references below). (Or put the slips of paper with the references on them into a basket and let each student choose one.) Without letting others know which verse he or she picked each student should secretly write their verse or part of their verse on a piece of paper, backwards and without vowels. Just like Hebrew writing! One by one, they can go up and copy what they've written onto the chalkboard, and see if the others can guess their verse.

Tell the students that Hebrew is read from the right to the left, unlike the English language. And ancient Hebrew was written without vowels. Through oral tradition and some other indicators, people knew what vowels should be used. Later (around the 6th century A.D.) people came up with a system to indicate the vowel sounds.

After the students rewrite their verse so that it reads from right to left without any vowels, let them take turns going up to the chalkboard and write up their "Hebrew" writing. (Or they could trade papers with another student.) Then see if the students can figure out what it says.

Point out also that in addition to their literal meaning, each verse has inner meanings that the students will understand more and more as they grow older.

Note to the Teacher: Writing backwards without vowels was challenging and kind of fun.

Photocopy this page and cut apart the references below.

Exodus 20:14	Exodus 20:13
Exodus 20:15	Exodus 20:1
Exodus 19:16	Exodus 20:2
Exodus 19:17	Exodus 20:3
Exodus 19:18	Exodus 20:4
Exodus 19:19	Exodus 20:5
Exodus 19:20	Exodus 20:6
Exodus 19:21	Exodus 20:7
Exodus 19:22	Exodus 20:8
Exodus 19:23	Exodus 20:9
Exodus 19:24	Exodus 20:10
Exodus 19:25	Exodus 20:11
Exodus 20:16	Exodus 20:12
Exodus 20:17	Exodus 20:18

If they need a clue, remind them that all the verses are in Ex.19:16-25 or Ex. 20:1-18.

The Ten Commandments Project

from General Church Education

This project shows how the Ten Commandments relate to the Two Great Commandments. The first tablet tells us how to love the Lord and the second tablet tells us how to love our neighbor!

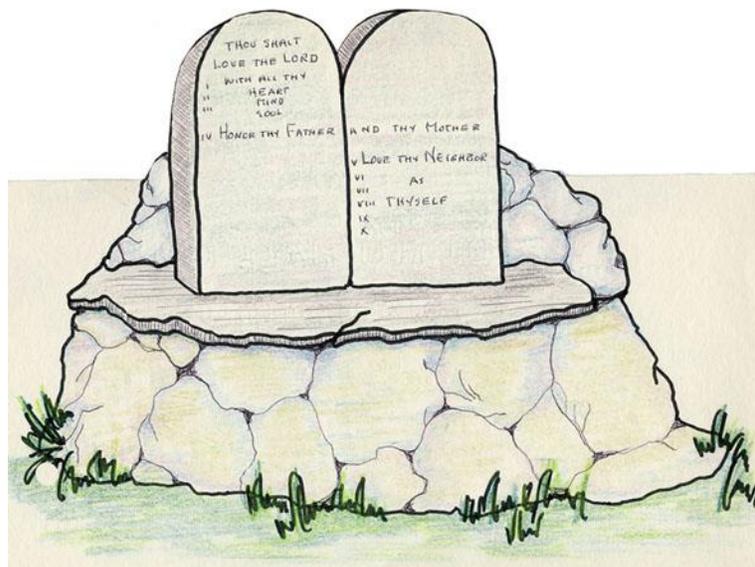
Materials:

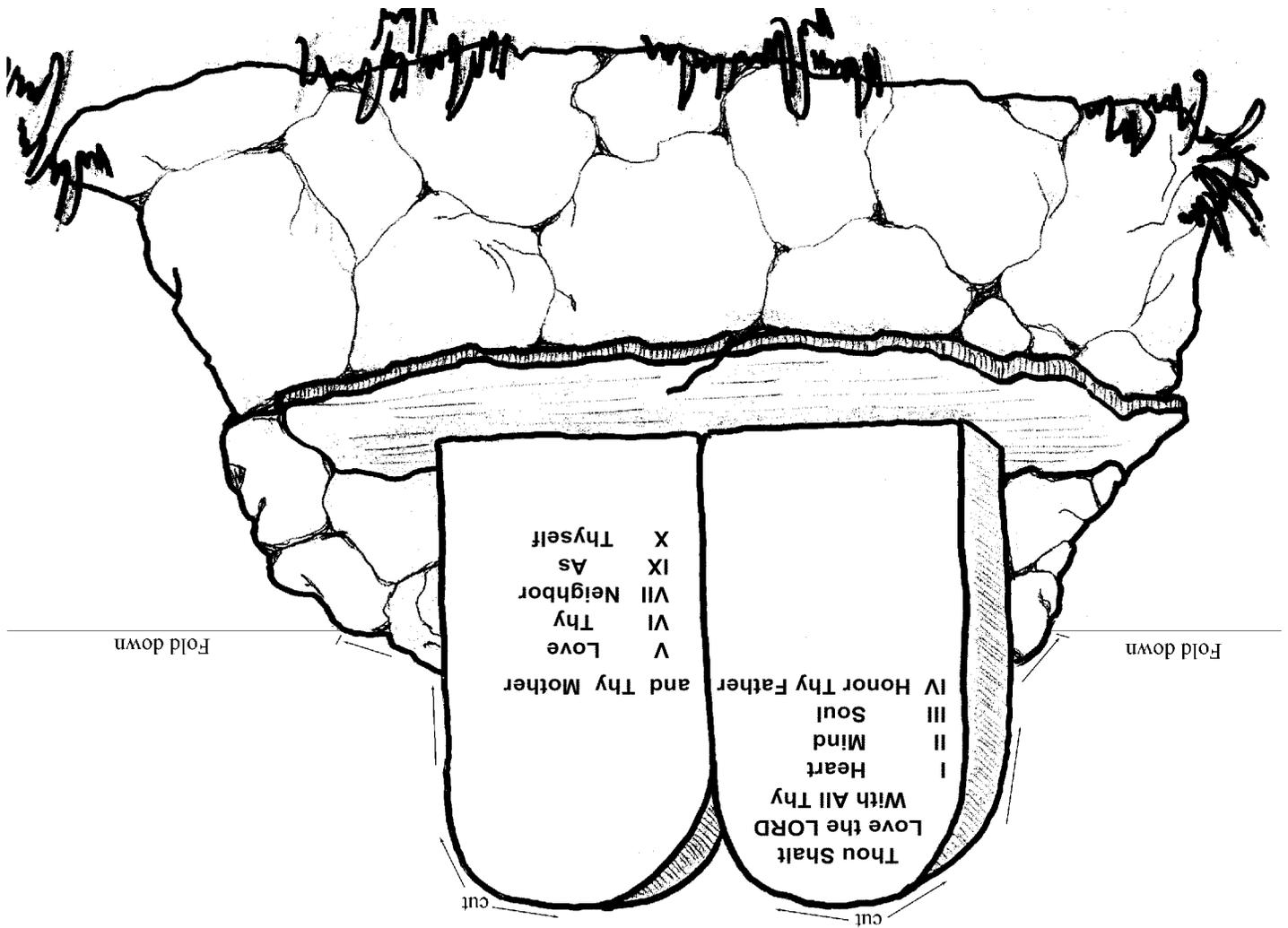
White card stock or other heavy paper
Watercolors, colored pencils, crayons or markers

Instructions:

1. Print the next page. If you use heavy paper or card stock the project will stand up better.
2. Color the two tablets, surrounding stones, and grass.
3. Cut very carefully where indicated (along the tablets and then the stones but stop at the fold lines).
4. Carefully fold along the fold lines on the left and right of the tablets (but do not fold the tablets). The tablets will stick up into the air by themselves.
5. Fold on the other fold line at the top of the page. Use the folds to connect the top of the page to the bottom of the page to form a triangular prism. Tape to secure. The tablets should stick up into the air.
6. Display!

Example:





This represents the Ten Commandments,
 which were written by the Lord on two tablets of stone, and given to Moses.

When we truly love the Lord, we try to KEEP His Commandments and live a good life.

Those who do not truly love the Lord BREAK His Commandments and live an evil life.

Fold under to form base