

WEEK TWO

RULE 1: LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND PUT HIM FIRST

BIG IDEA

The most important thing in the world is to love God with

ALL OUR HEART, MIND & STRENGTH

God wants us to love Him more than anyone or anything else and never to worship anything else.

PREP: (Kids can help!)

- Cut out a piece of card for each person, and write an activity on each – e.g. watching TV, playing video games, playing sport, doing homework, reading a book, loving God, doing music practise, shopping, listening to music, eating, going on an outing (e.g. to beach or bush walk).
- Find a large jar with a lid.
- Find three golf balls (or stones). Write the letters G O D in vivid on them (one letter on each ball).
- Get out a packet of rice (or other dried food) and a bowl.
- A treat to eat during the reading.
- Put a tea light candle in a jar. (optional)



WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- The three golf balls.
- The packet of rice or other dried food.
- The commandment cards from last week.

INTRODUCTION

The first commandment God gave to Moses was for His people to love Him with all their hearts and minds and their strength. He wanted them always to remember that He was their God. He had rescued them and loved them and he wanted them to love Him back.

He told them that they weren't to let anything else take His place in their lives. In those days other gods were often idols from other religions. But for us, a god may be something that we want so badly or love so much that it makes us forget about God.

Questions:

- **What kind of things do we do if we love someone?**

(We put the other person first, love being with them, want to please them, love talking to them, love to listen to them.)

That's what God means when he says he wants us to love Him with all our heart, to put Him first.

- **What kind of things might we sometimes be tempted to love more than God? (ourselves, fun, sport, things...)**

EXPLORE

- Bring out the large jar, 3 balls and the packet of rice (or other dried food). Explain that the jar is like our day, with all the activities that fill it.

Let the children have turns adding some rice into the jar as they think about things that fill their day e.g. school, sports, eating, chores, watching TV, homework, caring for a pet.

- Once they have thought of all their activities bring out the 3 balls. Ask the children what the letters on them could mean – arrange them to spell “God.” Is God part of their day too?

- Now it is full, try to add the balls to the jar... and notice that they won't fit.

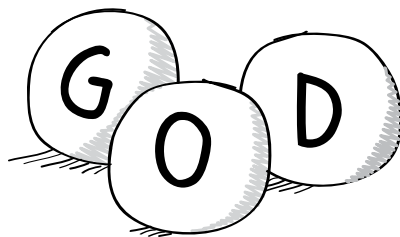
- Pour out the rice into the bowl.

- Now place the balls in the empty jar, and then add the rice. See how everything can now fit.

Did you notice that when we put the little things (rice) in first then it was harder to fit in the important things (balls). But if we put God first, the smaller things fit in around them.

Question:

- What are some ways we can put God first?



Three special ways that we can put God first are talking to Him, reading our Bible and showing love to others. These things will be pushed out by other less important activities if we don't put them in first.

When we choose to put God first, and then fit other things around Him, it will always be easier than trying to fit God in afterwards.

ACTIVITY

Putting first things first

- Take out the set of activity cards. Give each person a card and ask them to stand in a line that shows the order of what they think should come first and what come last.

Question:

- What would some other kids you know think would be most important?

Talk about the way different people will see different things as more or less important and that is OK.

Some families think sport is most important and others think reading is...

But God wants us to put Him first no matter where we choose to put the other things.

WEEK TWO

READ

We're going to eat a treat – because God promises blessings to those who love and obey him.

“ Daniel loved God and trusted him with all his heart, and even though he had been taken prisoner to the land of Babylon he never stopped praying each day to his Heavenly father and trying to obey him in everything.

Because of this, Daniel became a trustworthy advisor to the King. In fact the king planned to make him a ruler over the other princes as he knew what a good person Daniel was.

But some of the other leaders were jealous of Daniel and tried to find fault with him and get him into trouble. Even though they tried, they couldn't find anything wrong. The only thing they could say against Daniel was that he worshipped his God. So the princes went to the king to set a trap for him. They said, “King Darius, may you live forever! We want you to make a new law. Tell the people they must pray only to you for the next thirty days. And anyone who doesn't obey will be thrown into a den of lions. Write this law down and sign it. Then not even you can change it.” So King Darius signed the law.

Daniel knew that the law had been signed. But he still went home, opened the windows of his room, and got down on his knees to pray just as he always had. Some of the king's helpers heard Daniel praying to God and hurried back to the king. They said, “Didn't you make a law that any person praying to anyone

other than you must be thrown into a den of lions?”

“Yes,” the king said, “I did. It is a law that can never change.”

Then they said, “Daniel isn't obeying you. He prays to his God three times a day!”

The king felt really angry with himself for signing that law. He tried to find a way to save Daniel but there was no way to reverse it. So at last King Darius had Daniel thrown into a den of lions. However before he did it, he said to him, “May the God you worship every day save you.”

Then, a big stone was rolled across the opening so that no one could get Daniel out.

The king was really upset and went to his palace. He wouldn't eat and he couldn't sleep that night. Early the next morning, he got up and hurried

to the lions' den. He called out “Daniel, you who worship the living God, was your God able to save you from the lions?”

Daniel called back to the king, “My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so they couldn't hurt me!”

Daniel had trusted God and was not hurt at all. King Darius was so happy that he ordered his helpers to take Daniel out of the den immediately. Then he sent this message to people all over the world. “I now make a new law that all people in my kingdom must worship Daniel's God. He is the living God and his kingdom will last forever. He is the God who can save people from danger, for he saved Daniel from the lions.”

Daniel 6:9 Excerpts *Classic Bible Story Book*, Kenneth N. Taylor (Tyndale)

DID YOU KNOW?

Daniel was deported to Babylon (900 miles away from home) when he was only sixteen years old.

He was about 82 years old when he was put in the den of lions.

“WHEN WE PUT GOD FIRST, ALL OTHER THINGS FALL INTO THEIR PROPER PLACE OR DROP OUT OF OUR LIVES.”

- EZRA TAFT BENSON -

EXPLORE

Questions:

- Why did Daniel still go and pray to God even though the king had commanded everyone to only worship him?
- What is the difference between worshipping the God of heaven, who shut the lions' mouths, and worshipping an idol or just a human king?

PRAY

- Place a lit candle in a jar and put it on the table. Let everyone take turns holding the jar and asking God for help to give Him the first place in their lives.

LIVE

Put this commandment card somewhere you will notice it during the week. Take time over meals to talk about how everyone is learning to put God first each day.



OTHER IDEAS

• Play Red Light Green Light

One person is chosen to be the traffic light. Everyone else stands on the other side of the room. The 'traffic light' says "Green light," and faces away from everyone else. While the others try to get close enough to touch the traffic light, the traffic light can at any time call out "red light" and turn around. If they catch anyone moving, they must return to the far side of the room. The first person to touch the traffic light gets to be the next traffic light.

- **Make traffic light biscuits** – with a plain biscuit recipe make oblong shapes and add red, orange and green pebbles. Then when you are out driving talk about the rules of the road. Ask the children what the different signs mean (e.g. stop sign, give way sign). What happens when drivers don't obey them?

- Watch Veggie Tales – 'Where's God When I'm S-Scared?'

CHECK OUT WHAT YOU
NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...

