



WEEK 3

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

We obey God by loving our families.

THE BIBLE

The Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Commandments:
Exodus 20:12-14; Matthew 5:21-24; (I Thessalonians 1:2-7)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Road Trip Jams!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Turn up your car radio. . . it's time to worship God on the go! Play some fun worship songs like these:
 - ["Yes I Will"](#)
 - ["Deep Cries Out"](#)

ACTIVITY | Are We There Yet?

- Hi, everyone! We are in week three of our Road Trip series and you might be wondering, "Are we there yet?" Almost! Let's pass the time with a fun game.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Lay down colored sheets of construction paper (similar to Candyland) in a curved path on the floor, interspersing the road sign printables along the route. Tell the kids to spin a number spinner or roll large dice to make a move around the course. You can have the kids walk along the path to play or if you have a large group, use large toys as game tokens to represent a group of kids. The first kid or group to make it to the end wins!
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide a buddy to partner with friends through the games. Be sure to design the game in a way that friends in wheelchairs get to play, too.

ACTIVITY | Family I.D.

- All of our home lives are different from everyone else's. And while our families may not look the same, our families help make us into the people we are supposed to be. **Tell me a little bit about your family!**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids a sheet of paper and access to an ink pad. Tell them to draw their perfect road trip vehicle. Encourage them to be creative – even inventing their own – but to leave the wheels off of the vehicle for now. Tell them to draw their family inside their vehicle. You will later instruct them to stamp their thumbprints in the place where the wheels should be.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide 3 worksheets, each with a different vehicle on it. Let them choose the one they like best then supply the thumbprints as wheels.
- Let's take a look at these unique vehicles. These are really cool! Did you know every single person has a unique thumbprint? That's right! There's no one in the world who has a thumbprint like yours. These thumbprint wheels are here to remind us that although we're all different from each other, we are all one family of God!

QUESTION | Fun with the Fam

- **What is one activity you like to do with your family?**
- Spending time with our families can be really fun, especially when we are able to do many of the things you've just mentioned! We can create special memories with them that can last a long time.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Work with the kids to come up with just one word to describe their favorite family activity. Play a game where each kid has to say their name and their word (ex: "Johnny Beach"). The next kid has to say the previous name and word plus their own. By the end, the last person will have to say everyone's name and activity, followed by their own.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

- SCRIPTURE | Exodus 20:12-14; Matthew 5:21-24
- We're on the road for week three of our virtual road trip to hear more about The Ten Commandments or rules God wants us to live by.
- These are the first four we talked about so far – let's review them together:
 - Put God first.
 - No idols. (Worship God only)
 - Respect God's name.
 - Worship and rest on God's day
- Next up, we have commandments five, six, and seven. Each of these commandments are about loving people, especially our families.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Exodus 20:12-14 and Matthew 5:21-24 aloud.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Set up a long piece of butcher paper and write out numbers 1-10 spaced evenly apart. Have kids write the summary phrases (above) next to commandment numbers 1-4. Have them add numbers 5-7 while you teach today.

- We can show our love to our parents and other grownups who take care of us by listening to their advice and treating them with love and kindness. They want what’s best for us, so obeying them would be the wise thing to do!
- We can show our love to our siblings and other family members by not filling ourselves with negative emotions toward them. It’s understandable to get frustrated and annoyed sometimes. It’s okay to feel hurt. But God doesn’t want us to stay that way because that is more harmful to us. We can ask God to show us how to love them like God does, and make things right with the people who upset us.
- We can also show love to people we make commitments to –like when people get married – and keep the promises we make to them.
- Our families aren’t perfect, but God loves each of our family members anyway . . . and we can do the same!

THE BIG IDEA | We obey God by loving our families.

- I’m ready to continue our road trip. I got my road trip bag, and. . .oh, no! I think I forgot my toothbrush. Can I borrow yours? Is that gross? What if we were family? It’s still gross? Oh, and speaking of family, look what I found in my bag again – today’s Big Idea!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Fold up today’s Big Idea road sign and put it in the same bag from the previous weeks.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide hand motions to help them remember the Big Idea. We obey (salute) God (point up) by loving our families (hug self).*
- There it is! We obey God by loving our families. It isn’t always easy, but it’s what God wants us to do.

VIDEO | Road Trip, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week’s [teaching video](#).*

STORY | Family Matters

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Share a story about your family where you had to make a conscious choice to show love (like forgiving a sibling or listening to your parents’ advice). Talk about how looking back, that was the right thing to do even though at the moment, it didn’t feel like it.*
- **Why do you think loving our families is important to God?**
- God wants us to treat people with kindness, love, and respect, which basically sums up the three commandments we heard about today. When we aren’t kind, loving, and respectful, it’s hurtful to everyone. God wants us to love people the way God loves us.
- It’s not always easy to love others, especially when they hurt our feelings or make us angry. But it’s important for us to learn how to get along and love each other the way God asks us to.

ACTIVITY | No Family Feud

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pair the kids and instruct them to work together to think through how they'd respond to a scenario that might occur while on a family road trip. Read aloud each of the scenarios below (or make up your own) and give each pair a few minutes to discuss what they'd do. When the allotted time is up, ask the pairs to share their responses with the larger group.
 - An adult won't let you listen to the music you want to.
 - You want to stay up late, but an adult says no.
 - Your sibling is annoying you and won't stop.
 - An adult promises you can get a special snack, but then changes their mind because it's too close to dinnertime.
- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have one preteen pretend to be the parent or sibling. They act out and set up the scenario. Another preteen acts as themselves and shows how they would or should respond in that situation.

SCRIPTURE | I Thessalonians 1:2-7

- We can love our families by putting love into action. That means the way we act shows love, kindness, and respect. Let's read a few Bible verses that explains this.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read I Thessalonians 1:2-7 aloud.
- These verses tell us how Paul's friends loved each other through their actions. When we think about our families, hopefully we can see how they show us they love us with their words and actions.
- **How has your family shown you love recently?**
- **What are some things we do that are not loving toward our families?**
- Remember: **we obey God by loving our families.** Let's talk a little more about how we can do that!

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | Traffic Cone Toss

- When we love our families, we show them by loving them, being kind to them, respecting them, and keeping our promises to them.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Line up three traffic cones about ten feet away from the kids and mark a starting line for them to stand behind. Give each kid three rings to toss. Explain that the cones represent (1) love, kindness, and respect, (2) not hurting others, and (3) keeping our promises. The goal is for each kid to toss their rings, one at a time, around each of the cones and then repeat the three statements out loud.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Label each cone so it is not forgotten. Allow kids to be closer to the cones if needed.

ACTIVITY | Heads Up! Family Edition

- Let's put our love into action!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into two teams and determine which team will go first. Have the first player from Team One come up to the front. Explain that you will place a card with a word or phrase on it on their forehead so their team can see it. The team will have thirty seconds to act out the word or phrase and the player must correctly guess what's on the card. If they guess correctly, they get a point and then the other team gets a turn to guess. Continue as time allows.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Download the "Heads Up" app and purchase the option to build your own deck. Then insert the words or phrases listed in your Shop & Prep List and use a device to play the game instead of index cards.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Having all the kids talk at our friends all at once will be too stimulating so create a system where one person gets to give a clue at a time.

MEMORY VERSE | Road Rules

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Line up the kids in a straight line. Explain that they will move around the room and follow simple directions as they recite the verse. For example: If you say, "U-Tturn," they should turn around and follow the lead of the last person in line. If you say, "Road Closed," they should stop moving and say the verse. If you say, "Traffic Jam," they need to move to stand in a new place in line.

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank You for each person in our family. Loving our families isn't always easy, but help us to love each person with our words and with our actions. May we remember that we obey You when we do that. Amen.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Ask for a different volunteer to pray for the group today.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What commandments did we hear about today?
- Who are these commandments telling us to show love to?
- What reason does the Bible give us for honoring our parents?
- Re-read I Thessalonians 1:3 aloud. Who in your family has been a good example of showing love? How have they done that?
- What makes it hard to show honor and respect to your parents?
- What are some things God would want us to do when someone upsets us?
- Why is it important to keep your promises?

ACTIVITY | Wish You Were Here!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage the kids to write a postcard for someone in their family, explaining why they love them.

- Today, we've talked about how **we obey God by loving our families**. God wants us to show them love and respect, to be kind, and to keep our promises. Think about someone in your family whom you love. Why do you love them? Take a few minutes to write a postcard that expresses why you are glad you get to be a part of their family and how much you love them.

MEMORY VERSE | Luke 10:27 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided.