



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

We obey God by loving everyone.

THE BIBLE

The Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth Commandments:
Exodus 20:15-17; Romans 13:8-10; (I Thessalonians 2:7-8)

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:
 - ["Your Love for Me"](#)
 - ["Gonna Serve"](#)

ACTIVITY | Rest Stop Challenge

- We made it to the last week of our virtual road trip! We've heard a lot of stories together over the past few weeks. Since we've been in our virtual car so long, it's time to get out and stretch our legs!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can do these together with a large group or set up stations with leaders at each post to guide the kids through each one. Some exercise suggestions are: jumping jacks, push-ups, jump rope, sprints, lunges, squats, sit ups, burpees, etc.

ACTIVITY | Love Road Signs

- Today, we'll talk about how important it is that we love all people everywhere. **How would you fill in the blank: "Loving everyone means _____."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set out art supplies. Print and distribute the Love Road Signs printable and have them answer the statement: "Loving everyone means _____." Talk with them as they work

and about how they answered the statement.

- There are so many great ways to love people and you gave some great suggestions!

QUESTION | Anywhere in the World

- **If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?**
- It’s cool to hear everyone’s different responses. Even though we had different answers, there is beauty in hearing everyone share.
- That’s one way to love everyone: to hear them share something they love or care about and share in their excitement with them. We can take this practice along with us as we get to practice loving each other today.

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

SCRIPTURE | Exodus 20:15-17

- We are nearing the end of our road trip where we’re hearing about the Ten Commandments and what they mean for us.
- So far, we talked about seven of them:
 - God first.
 - No idols (worship God only).
 - Respect God’s name.
 - Worship and rest on God’s day.
 - Honor your parents.
 - Don’t hurt or hate others.
 - Keep all promises, including your marriage.
- Let’s take a look at the remaining three commandments!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Exodus 20:15-17 aloud.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *If you did the butcher paper activity last week with the timeline, have preteens add the phrases for 8, 9 and 10 as you read through them today.*
- These commandments or rules are all about living in community with others and loving them. God wants us to love people. But how?
- Well, we can show love by respecting people’s things and not taking what doesn’t belong to us.
- We can show love by choosing to be honest at all times and resisting the urge to say things that are not true, or things we don’t have all the facts about.
- We can show love by being happy for someone when they have something good happens to them, instead of being jealous and wanting it for ourselves.
- To be completely honest, only God can perfectly love everyone. But because we love God, we have to try to love the people God loves, too! It’s a good thing God gives us these examples of things to do – and not to do – as ways to show our love to others!

THE BIG IDEA | We obey God by loving everyone.

- My bag is so heavy! I must have collected a lot of souvenirs from this road trip. Wanna help me unpack my bag?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, make today's road sign. Then, put all the Big Idea road signs from the previous weeks into your bag, with week one on top and week four on the bottom. Then, take them out one by one, and review all the Big Ideas from this series.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide hand motions to help them remember the Big Idea. We obey (salute) God (point up) by loving everyone (make a circle with your arms to indicate a globe).*
- And lastly, we have today's Big Idea: **We obey God by loving everyone.**

VIDEO | Road Trip, Episode 4

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

STORY | A Traffic Jam

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Share a story about a time when you were faced with a dilemma regarding any of the commandments we talked about today. As you do, place a toy car on a table or the floor where the kids can see. Invite kids to share their stories, and each time they do, have them stack a car behind you.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide some toy cars and a [road rug](#) so that kids can play and create their own traffic jam as they listen to the story.*
- **Have you ever been in a situation where you really wanted something that wasn't yours?**
- **Have you ever been in a situation where you didn't want to tell the truth?**
- We all make mistakes from time to time. But if let those mistakes pile up, they can create this "traffic jam" in our hearts, so that they slow down or block our way to God.

REFLECTION | Love is the Law

- It's easy to say that you're supposed to love everybody, but in real life, it's really hard to do, especially if a person isn't nice to you.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Romans 13:8-10 aloud.*
- Up until now, we have been thinking that each of the commandments is the law, but this Bible passage says that we are keeping the law when we love!
- Think about the laws of the road. **Why do we stop at a red light? Is it so we won't get a traffic ticket, or because it's the safest thing to do?** Both answers are correct, but most of all, it's best to obey traffic rules because we want to be safe, not just to avoid getting in trouble.
- In the same way, God doesn't want us to just keep these commandments because we're forced to. God wants us to follow these rules because it's how we best love God and others.

SCRIPTURE | I Thessalonians 2:7-8

- So far, we've talked about how loving everyone isn't always that easy. People aren't always lovable, and honestly, we're not always lovable ourselves.

- Our buddy, Paul, has a lot to say about love – he literally wrote an entire chapter in the Bible on love found in I Corinthians 13. But this is what he wrote to his friends in a city called Thessalonica.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read I Thessalonians 2:7-8 aloud.*
- These verses tell us how Paul’s friends loved each other by caring for each other. And because there was so much love there, they were happy sharing about God and other good things amongst themselves.
- When we make the decision to love others with God’s love, it gets easier to keep commandments eight through ten – it’s a lot harder to hurt people when you love them!

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

ACTIVITY | Care Bags

- Today, we’ve talked a lot about love and how **we obey God by loving everyone**. Let’s take a few minutes to prepare a care bag for someone God wants us to love. That way, they’ll know we care about them!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask the kids to prepare notes and bags of treats for someone in need of love. The bags can be distributed to your pastor/church leader, elderly congregants, nursing home residents, the homeless, neighbors, etc.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Contact parents of preteens a few days ahead of time and plan for the preteens to help deliver these care bags, if possible. Have lunch with them before or after delivering and discuss how people will/did react.*

ACTIVITY | Share the Love

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Seat the kids in a circle. Explain that you are going to play some music as they pass around a heart pillow. Encourage them to imagine they are passing love to each other as they pass the pillow. When the music stops, the kid holding the pillow has to recite today’s Big Idea and is out of the circle. Once they are out, they have to hop on one foot around the circle until they get back to their spot. Continue to play as time allows.*

MEMORY VERSE | Love Bug!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Hide around the room a bunch of cut-out Volkswagen Beetles, or ‘Bugs,’ as they’re called, with each one having the memory verse printed on it. Anytime a kid spots one, they have to grab it, and yell, “Love bug!” When all the bugs are found – make sure each kid has one – recite the verse together.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Create a road out of butcher paper (or use the rug from the Traffic Jam module) and have kids attach every love bug they find to the road.*

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank You for each person You’ve put in our lives to love. Help us to love others enough to respect their things, to tell the truth, and be happy for their blessings. Teach us each day to show our love for You through our love for others.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Enlist the help of another volunteer to pray for the group.*

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What is commandment number eight?
- What is the ninth commandment? What does it mean?
- What does it mean to 'covet?' Why is that not a good thing?
- Re-read Romans 13:8-10. What does it mean to "love your neighbor as yourself?"
- Why do you think God gave us the Ten Commandments?
- Do you find it easy or hard to love everyone? What makes it easy? What makes it hard?
- How would keeping commandments eight, nine, and ten help us love others?

ACTIVITY | LUV EVRY 1

- Today, we've talked about how **we obey God by loving everyone**. It isn't always easy, but God wants us to be kind and compassionate to those in our family, in our community, our school, and our church. Think about ways you can show love to someone in each of these categories this week!
- To help us remember to love everybody, we are going to create our very own license plates!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the license plate printable on cardstock paper and instruct the kids to create personalized license plates using art supplies. Help them brainstorm and list ways they can show love to someone in their family, their community, their school, or their church. Include some of these items on the back of their license plate.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have kids write their personalized license plate name in pencil, then trace over it using a glue gun. Then cover the license plate entirely with some foil, rubbing it down to expose the glue gun letters below. Decorate with colored permanent markers if desired.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a buddy and/or magazine pictures friends can glue on their license plate.*

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.*