

TEACHER' NOTES

6 year olds	OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Chapter 8	Getting ready for the Saviour
Lesson 3	Rules for Life.

AIMS

1. Students will listen to the story of Moses and the burning bush.
2. They will also hear the story of God giving Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.
3. They will be able to explain that the Ten Commandments are rules of life for everyone.

BEGIN

Have the children look at the painting of Moses and the burning bush in their packs. Explain that this is a picture of Moses listening to God who spoke to him from a burning bush. Ask them to look closely at the painting to see what is so unusual about it (the bush is not burning up, although fire rages through it). Tell them that today they will hear a story about God and Moses

STEP 2

From the children's pack, read the story of Moses and the burning bush (Ex 3:1-14). Comment on how close Moses was to God - is spoke with Him. It was at this meeting that God made Moses a prophet, a messenger to the Jewish people whom he was preparing for the Saviour's coming.

STEP 3

Now read with the children the story of Moses on Mount Sinai and how God gave him the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:1-17, 31:18). Explain that these were written on tablets of stone; so that they could not be changed or rubbed out. The Commandments would help the people to be good while they waited for the Saviour.

STEP 4

Read the special paragraphs in the children's pack with the children. Explain the definition of the Ten Commandments: God's laws for every one of us. Explain that a law is a rule or command. Ask if they can think of any rules everyone must follow, e.g. stop signs and traffic lights. Explain that if everyone obeys these rules everyone can be safe and happy. If someone breaks these rules, there may be accidents and often punishments. Is this because parents and teachers, for example, are mean? No, it's because everyone can be happy only if everyone lives according to the rules.

STEP 5

Explain that the Ten Commandments are rules also. But they are not rules just for the classroom, or just for the home, or the streets; they are rules for the whole of our life. If we follow these commandments of God, everyone can be happy.

STEP 6

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments so that people would know how to be good. The Commandments tell everyone to love God and to treat his neighbour well. Asked the children to think of rules that help them to love God and neighbour, and discuss with them the rules in the children's pack.

STEP 7

Read the Ten Commandments with the children and help them to see how the rules they discussed above fit into these categories. Explain that God wanted the people who were waiting for the Saviour to follow these rules. He also wants all people to obey them. When we break a commandment, we sin. Explain that sin displeases God and a person must be sorry for his sins and try to do better.

STEP 8

1. Have the children write a letter to Jesus - see the exercise in the children's pack.
2. Practice question 21 from the catechism with the children.
3. Start the children on practising memorising the Ten Commandments.
4. If time permits, show "The Ten Commandments" video from the In the Beginning: Stories from the Bible series (available through Ignatius Press; 30 minutes).

CONCLUDE

Ask the children to read the title of this lesson from the top of their children's packs. Then read a loud with them the Scripture quote below it. You will need to explain it; tell them that sometimes it is difficult to love God's law and to obey them. But if a person obeys them time after time, it will grow to love them, as this passage says.

PREVIEW

In our next lesson we will learn about the last prophet - St John the Baptist.