

# “Family Plan”



## Goin' Home

As well as the verse, we have a question with an answer for you to review with your child each day. This question/answer will be the same for multiple weeks and is designed to help your child lock into memory what they are learning. Begin each day with asking the question and helping your child respond with the correct answer. Please take 5-10 minutes each day to recite the verse with your child, discuss the question for the day, and pray with them.

**Question:** Why did God give us the Ten Commandments?

**Answer:** Laws for righteous living, and to be a mirror to show us we all sin.

**The verse for the week is: You shall not steal.**

**Exodus 20:15**

### MONDAY

The last several weeks we have started studying the Ten Commandments. We learned the reasons they are so good for us. They help us to make right decisions. Decisions that honor God and protect our relationships with Him and others. Much like a traffic light that tells us when to go and when to stop, the Ten Commandments tell us to proceed with an action or to stop because it is sin. So we see they are a guide to help us live right and avoid sin. They are God's laws for righteous living.

We also learned that the Ten Commandments function much like a mirror. Not only do they teach us what behaviors are sinful, as we just talked about, they also reflect back to us the sin in our lives. Just as when we look in a mirror we might discover that we have dirt on our face or messed up hair, when we look at the Commandments we discover we have sin in our lives. The Bible says through the Law comes the knowledge of sin (Rom 3:20). Paul said in Romans 7:7 that if it wasn't for the law he wouldn't have known sin.

This is important! Once we know we have sinned, we can then repent and seek the one who can remove the guilt and penalty of our sin, Jesus.

**PRAY**-Thank you God for your Ten Commandments. Thank you for all your Law, all your words, all of the Bible. As we go through this study. Help us to learn and remember the Ten Commandments.

### TUESDAY

Yesterday we reviewed some important ways the Ten Commandments help us. Of course, they cannot guide us, protect our relationships or reveal the sin in our lives to us if we don't know them and learn them. That is why we have started studying each one. Let's review each commandment we have learned so far, what it means, how we follow it and how it can be broken.

What was the first one? *You shall have no other gods before me*

And the second commandment?

*You shall not make for yourself a carved image [idol]*

Now the third commandment.

*You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain*

The fourth?

*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it Holy.*

And now the fifth commandment?

*Honor you father and mother*

The sixth? *You shall not murder.*

Seventh? *You shall not commit adultery.*

Finally, the eighth commandment we learned this week? *You shall not steal.*

**PRAY** Lord, thank you for giving us the Ten Commandments. Help us to remember the ones we have learned so far, what they mean and how we can follow them. Help us not to break your commandments, they are good for us.

## WEDNESDAY

Have you noticed something about the commandments as we've studied them? They seem easy to follow, but when we start understanding what they really mean, and that our attitudes can break them as much as our actions can, we find out they are harder to follow than we think. We find out we sometimes break them!

Do you think it will be the same with the eighth commandment, you shall not steal?

Let's take a look at it and find out. If you remember, the first four commandments dealt with how we are to act towards God. The last six teach how God expects us to act towards others.

And we must always remember how Jesus said the commandments are summed up. Listen to Matthew 22:35-40.

God has commanded us to love and respect others. And He has given us advice and rules on how to do that. If we are ever unsure of how to love someone, Jesus gives us instruction in Matthew 7:12 *read*

**PRAY-**Lord, help us to love as we love ourselves and treat them as we want to be treated.

## FRIDAY

We've learned that the attitude behind the act of breaking a commandment is very important. What do you think the attitude that leads to stealing is? Why is it sin? Often, it is greed. What does greed mean? Always wanting more! More money! More stuff! Why? *Allow answers.*

We're not satisfied with what God has given us. We think He's done us wrong! People often think they will be happy if they just have a little more stuff, a little more money, a bigger house, nicer car, etc. Problem is, the desire for more doesn't go away. More doesn't satisfy! There are many rich people who are unhappy. Real happiness doesn't come from money and things we buy. What do you think real happiness comes from? *Allow answers.*

Here's a verse that helps: Proverbs 10:22

Here's another: Hebrews 13:5

Tomorrow we will look at real riches a little more.

**PRAY-**O God, help us to know you have given us all we need and to not be greedy for more.

## THURSDAY

Yesterday we learned a rule of Jesus' that can help us know how to treat others and show them love. Let's look at the verse Matthew 7:12 again. Would we want someone to steal from us? No! And so we shouldn't steal from others. This rule of Jesus' is sometimes called the Golden Rule because it is so important and valuable. What are some ways people could treat you that would make you feel happy, respected and loved? *Allow answers.* Those are the ways to treat them!

What about stealing? Would we want someone to steal from us? What is stealing? Give me some examples.

Stealing is gaining something for ourselves in a wrong or deceptive manner. Certainly it includes taking something from someone, whether it be a toy or money. But are there other ways we steal from people? Suppose we buy a hamburger and are given back too much change. If we keep the extra change are we stealing? *Allow answers.* Why?

What if we borrow something and don't return it, trick someone to give us something? What if we cheat in a contest to win a prize? Is that stealing? Why or why not? *Allow answer.*

**PRAY-**Lord, help us to understand and recognize ways we might fall into stealing.

## SATURDAY

Real riches are knowing God is always with us, having a relationship with Him through Jesus. Real riches are having the peace knowing God is in control and gives us all we need. Real happiness is knowing that if we have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior we have a home prepared for us in heaven! Real happiness allows us to be content in any situation we find ourselves, whether it means we have a lot of money or little. Listen to what the apostle Paul said... *Read Philippians 4:11-13.*

If we truly understand God's love for us, If we truly understand He is in control,

If we truly understand He knows best,

If we truly believe He will keep all the promises He has made, we can be content in any situation. We can be happy, not greedy. And we will not have a desire to steal from others. We will be thankful and happy with what God has given us.

**PRAY-** Lord, help us to be content with what you have given us and to trust you. You know what is best for us and love us.