

**Bible Point** ▶

# God loves us and wants us to love him.

## Bible Verse

“I obey your commandments with all my heart” (Psalm 119:69b).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- realize that God loves them,
  - learn that God wants us to love him,
  - discover ways to express their love for God, and
  - thank God for his love.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

- **God wants to be first in our lives.**

**Exodus  
20:1-11**



The Ten Commandments are described as the “terms of the covenant” in Exodus 34:28. It summarizes the moral and spiritual expectations of the Israelites and was the basis for the moral and spiritual imperatives of the entire body of Old Testament law.

Jesus pointed to Deuteronomy 6:5 as the greatest of all the commandments: “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.” He added that the second greatest commandment was the one found in Leviticus 19:18: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” These two commandments sum up the entire message of the Old Testament (Matthew 22:34-40).

The Ten Commandments paint a picture of what it was like for the ancient Israelites to love God and others: Commandments one through four speak of what it means to love God; commandments five through ten speak of what it means to love others.

### Prayer

- Read Psalm 19:8 and 1 John 5:3.
- Why should the commandments God has given us bring joy to the heart?
- Pray: Dear God, as I think about how these commandments apply to my own life, help me always understand their primary purpose—that of helping me love you and my neighbor. Help me model to the children love for God and others. In Jesus’ name, amen.

### Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

# This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
<b>Welcome Time</b>	<b>Welcome!</b> —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	Basket name tags made in Lesson 1	
<b>Let's Get Started</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Option 1: Happy Hearts</b> —Make heart-shaped snacks to share later.	Plastic tablecloth, bread, heart-shaped cookie cutters, strawberry cream cheese, plastic knives, plastic wrap, tray, wet wipes	
	<b>Option 2: Looking Good</b> —Dress up as if they're going to church.	Dress-up clothes	
	<b>Option 3: Book Nook</b> —Enjoy looking at a variety of Bible storybooks.	Soft blanket, cuddly pillows, stuffed animals, Bible storybooks	
	<b>Pick-Up Time</b> —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>	<b>Setting the Stage</b> —Learn ways to show love to God; then sing a lively song.	Bible, tape, paper plates, marker, CD player	
	<b>Bible Song and Prayer Time</b> —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>Hear and Tell the Bible Story</b> —Learn more about the Ten Commandments and discover ways to show God our love.	Bible, paper plates from "Setting the Stage"	
	<b>Do the Bible Story</b> —Sing an action song to thank God.	CD player	
<b>Closing</b>  	<b>Learning to Love God</b> —Teach Whiskers the importance of loving God.		
	<b>Loving Prayers</b> —Review the Bible Point; then share a snack.	Snacks made in Option 1, napkins, wet wipes	

\*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

## Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** basket name tags made in Lesson 1

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned..." discussion. Use questions such as "What's one way you can obey God's special rules?" and "Can you name one of God's commandments?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► God loves us and wants us to love him.**
- Hand out the basket name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help the children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class the first week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout on page 22. You can find the directions for making the name tags on page 13.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.



It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

## Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate between the activities to offer help as needed and direct children's conversation toward the point of today's lesson. Ask questions such as "What are some ways we can show God we love him?" and "Did you know that God wants us to love him?"

### ■ Option 1: Happy Hearts

**SUPPLIES:** plastic tablecloth, bread, heart-shaped cookie cutters, strawberry cream cheese, plastic knives, plastic wrap, tray or plate, wet wipes

Before this activity, cover a table with a plastic tablecloth. Set out bread, heart-shaped cookie cutters, strawberry cream cheese, and plastic knives. As children arrive, let them form an assembly line and make delicious heart-shaped treats to share later. Ask them to clean their hands with the wet wipes. Have some children cut heart-shaped pieces of bread, some spread strawberry cream cheese, and some place the treats on a plate. Cover the treats with plastic wrap, and set them aside until the closing activity.

As children work, mention that hearts remind us of love. Point out that ► God loves us and wants us to love him.



If you choose not to do Option 1, you'll need to provide a small snack for the closing activity or have a helper make this snack for the children.

### ■ Option 2: Looking Good

**SUPPLIES:** dress-up clothes

Set out a box of dress-up clothes such as hats, neckties, high-heeled shoes, men's suit coats, purses, and dressy gloves. Invite your preschoolers to dress up and pretend they're


**BIBLE POINT** ▶

going to church. As children play, mention that one way to show God we love him is by going to church. Tell children that ▶ God loves us and wants us to love him.

### ■ Option 3: Book Nook

**SUPPLIES:** soft blanket, cuddly pillows, stuffed animals, Bible storybooks

Make a cozy “book nook” in one corner of the room by spreading a soft blanket on the floor and adding several cuddly pillows and stuffed animals. Then set out a variety of Bible storybooks and picture books for children to look at and enjoy. Encourage the children to “read” the stories to their stuffed animal friends. Tell children that today they’ll learn about God’s love. Mention that ▶ God loves us and wants us to love him and that learning about God is a good way to show him our love.


**BIBLE POINT** ▶

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

### ■ Pick-Up Time

**SUPPLIES:** CD player


**track 2**

Lead children in singing “Come Along With Me” with the CD (track 2) to the tune of “Come and Go With Me.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.


**SING**

**Come along with me and pick up all our things,  
Pick up all our things,  
Pick up all our things.  
Come along with me and pick up all our things  
So our room will be clean.**

*(Repeat 2x.)*

## Bible Story Time

### ■ Setting the Stage

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, tape, paper plates, marker, CD player


**track 12**

Before this activity, tape paper plates to the floor in a circle so children can hop from one plate to the next. You’ll need one plate for each child. Use a marker to number the plates 1 through 10. You may use each number more than once.

Tell the children you’ll clap three times to get their attention. Explain that when you clap three times, the children are to stop what they’re doing and raise their hands. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to class today?** (I dressed up like I was going to church; looked at books; made yummy snacks.)

Say: **All of the interesting things you did remind us how we can show God we love him. Taking time to go to church shows God that we love him. When we read Bible storybooks, we're learning about God, and that shows God we love him. Even the heart-shaped treats we made remind us how much we love God. Today we'll be learning that ► God loves us and wants us to love him. First, let's sing a song and see how many of God's special rules we can remember. Stand next to a paper plate. As we sing, we'll hop from plate to plate around the circle.**



Lead children in singing "The Ten Commandments Song" (Exodus 20:2-17) with the CD (track 12) to the tune of "Ten Little Indians." Have the children hop in a circle next to the paper plate each time another commandment is sung. When the song is over, turn off the CD.



**SING**

- I'm your only God—it's true.** (Hold up one finger.)
- Don't worship idols—ooh!** (Hold up two fingers.)
- Respect my name and don't be rude.** (Hold up three fingers.)
- Keep the Sabbath holy.** (Hold up four fingers.)
- Please obey your mom and dad.** (Hold up five fingers.)
- Don't kill people—oh! how bad!** (Hold up six fingers and shake your head.)
- Please stay married—you'll be glad.** (Hold up seven fingers.)
- Don't steal things from others.** (Hold up eight fingers.)
- Never, ever tell a lie.** (Hold up nine fingers.)
- Don't wish for things your neighbors buy.** (Hold up ten fingers.)
- Follow God's rules, and you'll be** (clap your hands)
- Safe and very happy!** (Turn in a circle; then clap one time.)

Say: **That was fun! Look at the paper plate you're standing next to. Do you know what number that is? Let's read the Ten Commandments that go along with the numbers you're standing on. Hop up and down if you're standing on number one.** Pause for a response, and then read the first commandment from Exodus 20:3 or the simplified version given in "The Ten Commandments Song." Continue calling out numbers and reading the commandments.

When you're finished, say: **God gave us special rules because he loves us. One way we can show our love for God is by obeying his special rules. Let's learn more about God's special rules and how ► God loves us and wants us to love him.** Leave the paper plates taped to the floor to use during "Hear and Tell the Bible Story."



**■ Bible Song and Prayer Time**

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" with the CD (track 3) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



**I'm so glad for the Bible.  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.  
I'm so glad for God's book today.  
I'm so glad for the Bible.  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—  
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.  
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.  
Let me hear 'bout God's love—  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.  
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

*(Repeat first verse.)*

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *burning bush stamp*, and thank him or her for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. As they come up to you to get their hands stamped, take time to show them the Bible and explain to them that the Bible is God's Word for them.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" with the *CD* (track 4) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



**I'm so glad we're together.  
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.  
I'm so glad we're all here today.  
I'm so glad we're together.  
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—  
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.  
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.  
Thank you for everyone who's here.  
Thank you, Lord, for each one.  
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—  
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

## ■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, paper plates from "Setting the Stage"



Have children sit on the paper plates from the "Setting the Stage" activity. Open the Bible to **Exodus 20:1-11**, and show the passage to your class. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible. But before we listen to our Bible story, let's play a game to see what you remember about God's special rules. Look at**

### teacher tips

Make sure to return Learning Lab items back to the box when you are finished using them so the items can be used in future lessons.

This Bible story is featured in the new *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at [group.com](http://group.com).



**the number you're sitting on. Do you know the number?** Be sure each child knows what number he or she is sitting on. **I'll ask a question and say a number. If you're sitting on that number, hop up and answer the question!**

Open the *Bible Big Book* to page 1. Point to the picture of Moses.

Ask: • **Who is this man? Twos and fours, hop up!** Have children sitting on numbers two and four hop up and answer the question. Show pages 2 and 3 in the *Bible Big Book*.

Ask: • **What mean king finally let God's people go? Numbers one and five, hop up!** Pause.

• **What happened when Moses and God's people came to the Red Sea? Numbers three and seven, hop up!** Pause.

• **Who made the Red Sea split in two? Numbers six and ten, hop up!** Pause for the responses. Then show pages 4 and 5 of the *Bible Big Book*.

• **How many commandments did God give us? Numbers eight and nine, hop up!** Pause.

Say: **You did a good job remembering. Let's clap for each other! It's important to follow God's commandments. Listen to what the Bible says about that: ► "I obey your commandments with all my heart" (Psalm 119:69b). When we obey God, it shows that we love him. Let's see what other ways we can show our love to God. We'll read more of our *Bible Big Book*. Each time you hear God's name, put your hand over your heart.** Open the *Bible Big Book* to page 6. Read the following story portion and pause for children to cover their hearts each time they hear the word "God."

Read: **Following the Ten Commandments shows that we love God. We can show our love for God by listening to stories from God's Word and by coming to church. We can tell God we love him when we pray and sing. We can show our thanks to God by using our best manners when we pray. God loves to hear our prayers anytime—he wants to be an important part of our lives!**

Close the *Bible Big Book*.

Ask: • **How can we show God that we love him?**

Help children mention ways they just heard, such as going to church and praying. Then say: **We can also tell God we love him by singing him songs. Let's sing a special song to God right now.**

## ■ Do the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** CD player

track 13

Have each child find a partner to sing with. Lead children in singing "We Thank God in Many Ways" with the CD (track 13) to the tune of "London Bridge." Do the accompanying motions for extra fun.

SING

**We thank God in many ways.** (*Turn in place.*)  
**Clap our hands; sing his praise.** (*Clap partner's hands.*)  
**We thank God in many ways** (*turn in place*)  
**Because we love him.** (*Cover your heart.*)

**We thank God in many ways.** (*Turn in place.*)  
**Jump and hop; sing his praise.** (*Hop up and down.*)  
**We thank God in many ways** (*turn in place*)  
**Because we love him.** (*Cover your heart.*)

teacher tips

During the preschool years, children tend to play with friends of the same gender. They prefer short group experiences, which often include dramatic play.

## ◀ BIBLE VERSE



## BIBLE POINT ▶

Say: **Singing and thanking God are great ways to show him our love. Let's see if our friend Whiskers knows that ▶ God loves us and wants us to love him.**

## Closing

### ■ Learning to Love God

**SUPPLIES:** none

Bring out Whiskers, and go through the following script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



**Whiskers:** *(Comes out whistling.)* Hi, boys and girls. I just learned how to whistle. It's so much fun! *(Continues whistling and being a little rowdy.)*

**Teacher:** Whiskers! Whiskers! *(Whiskers whistles once more, and then stops.)* We can't hear very well when you whistle.

**Whiskers:** But whistling is fun!

**Teacher:** Yes, whistling is fun, Whiskers. But we're in church and learning about loving God. Wouldn't it be better to whistle later?

**Whiskers:** That sounds like a rule.

**Teacher:** It is a kind of rule, Whiskers. It's a polite rule. We've been learning that ▶ God loves us and wants us to love him. And one of the ways we show God our love is by learning about him. It's hard to learn about loving God with all that whistling.

**Whiskers:** I'm sorry. Do you think I could learn about loving God, too?

**Teacher:** Sure! Children, can you tell Whiskers some good ways we can show our love to God? *(Encourage children to name ways such as going to church, praying, reading the Bible, being kind to others, and singing. You may wish to use the Bible Big Book and let children show Whiskers page 6 while they explain ways to show God our love.)*

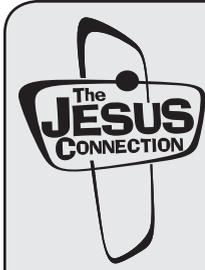
**Whiskers:** Wow! There are lots of ways to show God we love him. Thanks, boys and girls, for teaching me that ▶ God loves us and wants us to love him. I'm lucky to have friends like you to teach me all these important things.

**Teacher:** We're glad you're our friend, too, Whiskers. Children, let's clap for our friend Whiskers. *(Lead children in a round of lively applause.)*

**Whiskers:** Aw, that makes me feel good! I can see why God wants us to show that we love him. I'm going to run right over to my cousin Joey's and tell him all the neat things you taught me about loving God. See you later!

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Say: **Jesus loves it when we talk to him. One way we show Jesus that we love him is by praying to him. That's what prayer is—talking to Jesus as if we're talking to our friends or to our parents. Let's pray right now and thank Jesus for loving us.**

Pray: **Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us. Help me to find ways to show my family your love. In your name, amen.**

## ■ Loving Prayers

*SUPPLIES: snacks made in Option 1, napkins, wet wipes*

Gather children at the table. Set out the heart-shaped snacks children made during Option 1. If you chose not to do Option 1, provide another small snack for the children to enjoy. Have children clean their hands with the wet wipes.

Ask: • **Who loves us and wants us to love him?**

Lead children in repeating the Bible Point. Then say: **Moses and the Israelites were so glad God loved them that they thanked him with special songs and prayers. We can show God our love by praying to him, too. Let's say a prayer right now and thank God for his love. Fold your hands.** Pray: **Dear God, thank you for loving us. Please help us find new ways to show our love for you. We love you, God. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Hand each child a napkin. Say: **Let's pass around our plate of treats. When you take a treat, tell one way you can show your love to God.** Help children name ways to show their love to God, including going to church, praying, singing, reading the Bible, and being kind to people. After you're finished with the snacks, remind children to throw their napkins in the wastebasket.



## Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



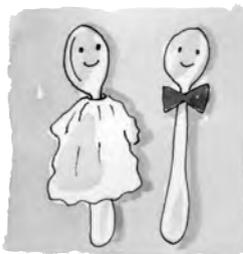
## For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

### ■ **Lively Learning: Special Prayers**

Use the paper plates from the “Setting the Stage” activity to play a lively counting game. Have children stand at one end of the room. Call out: “Number one.” Have children hop to one of the “number one” paper plates and each keep part of one foot on the plate as you read the first commandment from Exodus 20:3 or from the simplified version given in “The Ten Commandments Song” (p. 105). Then let children hop from that plate to the next number you call. Continue until you’ve called each number through 10.

### ■ **Make to Take: Goin’ to Church**



Before class, cut a small bow tie shape from black construction paper for each child. You’ll also need to cut facial tissues in half. Set out the tissues, paper bow ties, tacky craft glue, and plastic spoons. Use permanent markers to add facial features and pretend hair to the spoons. Invite children to make boy and girl spoons “going to church” by dressing up the plastic spoons with facial tissue dresses and paper bow ties. As children work, remind them that ► God loves us and wants us to love him. Mention that going to church is one way to tell God we love him.

### ■ **Treat to Eat: Snack Sculpting**

Ask children to clean their hands with wet wipes. Then hand each child a napkin and a handful of square crackers and half a piece of string cheese. Before children gobble their goodies, challenge them to make the following shapes using the snacks: a rectangle church with a triangle roof, and a square Bible. Talk about ways to tell God we love him—for example, going to church and reading the Bible. Then show children how to make a heart shape with the snacks. Remind them that ► God loves us and wants us to love him.



### ■ **Story Picture: We Go to Church to Honor God**

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Let children color the picture and glue scraps of cloth to the family’s clothing. Remind children that God wants us to love him and that we can learn how to love God at church.

# Today i learned...

## God loves us and wants us to love him.

**Lesson 8**  
Today the children learned that **GOD LOVES US AND WANTS US TO LOVE HIM.** They reviewed the Ten Commandments and learned about God's love for them. They talked about ways to express their love to God.

### Help me learn this:

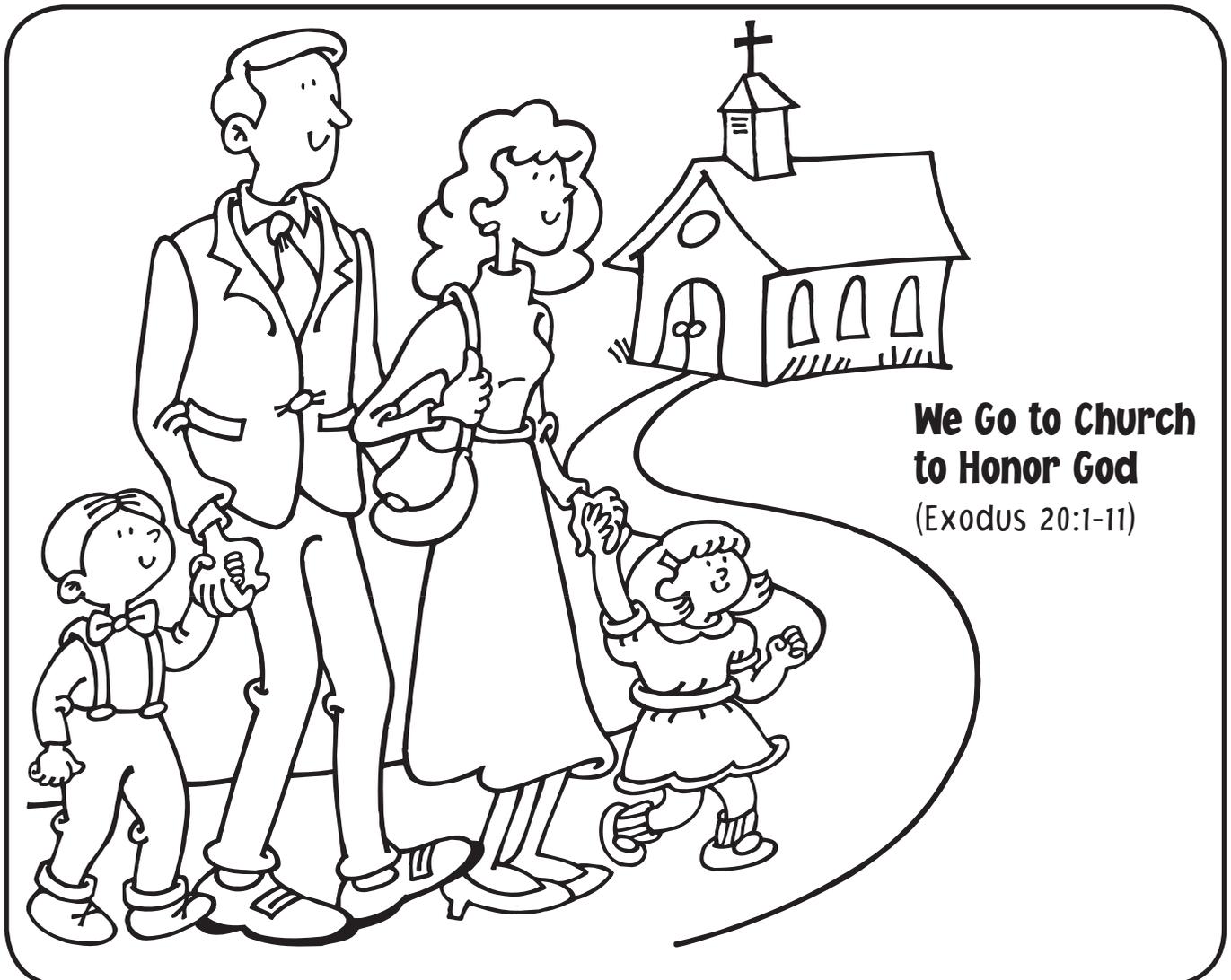
"I obey your commandments with all my heart" (Psalm 119:69b).

### Ask me:

- Why did God give us the Ten Commandments?
- How can you show God you love him?
- How can we show God that our whole family loves him?

### Family Fun

- Express your love for God as a family with a Pray 'n' Praise Night. Set out a variety of items to use as musical instruments. Include plastic bowls, large spoons, and pan lids. Invite each family member to choose an "instrument." Then play a recording of a praise song and play along. When you're finished, have a quiet prayer time and thank God for his love.



**We Go to Church to Honor God**

(Exodus 20:1-11)

