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| ***Title:*** | ***Ten Commandments***  |
| **Goal/Objective:** | Show how the ten commandments in the Old Testament become the ten manifestations in Christ  |
| **Scripture Passages:** | Exodus 20, John 14:10,12, 20 and 22-24 [**click here for Scriptures**](http://www.cmintl.webspaceforme.net/documents/TenCommandmentsscriptures.htm) |
| **Materials:** | Puppets, optional Moses costume and cardboard pieces, large bowl of water and a cupFor the Skit: Ten Commandment poster, scissors, yarn or string, Chalkboard (or Dryboard) and tape [**click here for Posters for Skit**](http://www.cmintl.webspaceforme.net/pages/TenCommandmens1.htm) |
| **Introduction:** | We will see that the ten commandments that God gave to Israel are, in a sense, for us promises because of the life of Jesus Christ that we have in us. |
| **Development Activities:** | Write the 10 commandments on a chalkboard, dry board OR have a student dress up as Moses and hold two large pieces of cardboard (stone tablets) listing the 10 commandments. Read the excerpts from Exodus and after each commandment, have the students repeat them back. Then, read John 14:10 and ask, “Who does the works?” *Jesus’ Father*Read John 14:12 and ask, “If we believe on Jesus, what works will we do?” *The works that Jesus does…and greater works* Then ask, “Why will we do the works that Jesus does and greater works? *Because Jesus is going to the Father*Take a large bowl full of water and ask,“What is in the bowl?” *water*Put a cup in the bowl of water so that the cup is filled full of water as well as in the water and ask,“What is in the cup?” *water*“What is the cup in?” *water*Read John 14:20 and show that the bowl represents Jesus’ Father, the water represents Jesus and the cup represents us. Jesus is in His Father, we are in Jesus and Jesus is in us.Read John 14:22-24 and ask,“If we love Jesus, what shall we do?” *Keep His words* “What shall happen if we do not love Jesus?” *We will not keep His words*The commandments—“Thou shalt and Thou shalt not” are actually the results of having the life of Jesus. If we have the life of Jesus, we will do the works that He does. The commandments are easy to keep…if you live by the life of the one whom they describe! |
| **Practice:** | Have the students cut out the Ten Commandment signs (so that the dotted lines do not show), punch holes in the corners and tie strings so that they can wear them around their necks. Then have them act out the Ten Commandments skit.[**click here for Skit**](http://www.cmintl.webspaceforme.net/documents/TenCommandmentSongSkit.htm) |
| **Checking for Understanding:** | Give the following examples and then have the students think up ones of their own:If you jump off a cliff, what will happen? *You will fall* If you believe on Jesus, what will you do? *The works He does*If you touch your tongue to a frozen metal post, what will happen? *Your tongue will stick to the post*If you love Jesus, what will you do? *Keep His word*If you plant an orange tree, what kind of fruit will you get? *Oranges*If you flip on a light switch, what will happen? *The light will come on*Show that there is a difference between automatics and consequences. If you jump off a cliff, God does not hurl you to the ground as punishment. It’s simply the law of gravity. Have the students give examples of automatics (not consequences) In other words, “What would happen if you scribbled on the wall?” would not be a good example because it involves punishment and consequences instead of automatics. The result could be different depending upon whose wall it is. The commandments are automatics for the life of Jesus. He is the only one who fulfills what’s in the Father’s heart. Apart from Him, we will not keep His word. Jesus, as our life, will keep His word. |
| **Extended Lesson:** | For older students or to go further into this, look at 1Corinthians 13. The first three verses speak of the importance of love. Verses 4-8 describe this love. Again, the verses are often viewed as commandments that are saying that we should be loving. But look at the depth that it goes…”does not seek its own”. Who does not seek his own? The only person I know who does not seek his own is Jesus. “…Does not take into account a wrong suffered.” Who does not count how many times he was wronged by a person—the third time they were late, the second time this week that store has overcharged for sale items, and on and on. Who does not keep an account? Only Jesus. Love NEVER fails. Only Jesus never fails. We will fail, but Jesus will never fail. So, if we look at 1Corinthians chapter 13 as a commandment to keep of ourselves, we will constantly see our inability and failure and be condemned. We can be encouraged to try harder, but eventually we will give up or else deceive ourselves into thinking that as long as we’re better than the guy next door, we’re OK. However, 1Corinthians 13 will continue to haunt us as a standard we can never reach until we see it as a description of the life we have received and recognize that Jesus fulfills these naturally. Jesus is patient and kind and is not jealous. He does not brag and certainly is not arrogant. He is not rude or glad at injustice or deceit. He didn’t read 1Corinthians 13 and decide to behave that way. Jesus is that way naturally. Now, whose life do we have? Is it not Jesus? Is He not in us even more than the water was in the cup? Still more verses that more directly illustrate this point are in Matthew 5, starting with verse 17. Here is clearly stated that Jesus came to fulfill the law. Then, he describes the Old Testament laws and an even stricter requirement such as, “You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not commit murder’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ But I [Jesus] say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court…” (Matthew 5:21-22). To view these as laws to keep, in our own ability, is an exercise in futility. For the natural man to keep the laws of God is unnatural. God did not call us to be unnatural but rather *spiritual.* |