



Lesson Eleven

Be Content!



Growing as a Teacher

Scripture

Exodus 20:17
1 Samuel 18:1–16

Bible Truth

The tenth commandment teaches us not to covet but to be content with what God has given us.

Bible Story

Saul grows jealous of David.

Lesson Aim

To become more thankful and not be envious of others.

Memory Work

Review:

Commandments 1–9

“You shall not covet.”

EXODUS 20:17a, NKJV

First Catechism

106 Q. What does the tenth commandment teach you?

A. To be content with whatever God chooses to give me.

The tenth commandment directly addresses our hearts and minds. Coveting starts with focusing on something that is not rightfully ours and nurturing the desire. In Ahab’s case, coveting of Naboth’s land simmered inside the king and finally bubbled over into lying, killing and stealing!

The sin of envy appears in every day and age. We are all tempted to look around and compare who we are and what we have with others, often coming up short in our own eyes. We cannot free ourselves from our own wrong desires, our discontent.

How thankful we are that Yahweh, the God of Israel, who freed his people from slavery, has delivered us from bondage through Jesus Christ. The freedom of a contented heart comes from Jesus. He is the source of all we need. The sovereign, loving God of the universe has given us his own Son as our Savior and Friend. As we focus on his loving gifts and provision for us, there is little room in our hearts for the seeds of discontent.

Pray that God
will give you a satisfied
and loving heart.

God *requires* us to be content and *enables* us to be thankful in heart and mind by providing his presence and help (Romans 7:24–25; Hebrews 13:5). Pray that he will give you a satisfied and loving heart.

Bible Background

King Saul turned a jealous eye on David when it became apparent that the gifted young leader’s reputation was beginning to surpass his own. Saul coveted what David had—popularity, leadership ability and the marked presence of the Lord. When Saul could not have these for himself, he became obsessed with trying to get rid of David. His coveting turned into fear, jealousy and rage. And even though Saul could not lay a finger on David because of God’s protection and control, Saul never truly gave up his quest to kill David, making several attempts on his life. In the end, Saul’s life was consumed by the evil that enveloped his heart.

Lesson Eleven at a Glance

Step	Minutes	Children's Activities	Supplies (complete list, p. 11)
1 Welcome	5–10	Review the story of Naboth and how King Ahab broke several of God's commandments. Sing "Ten Commandments Song" (Songbook, p. 29).	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 10 Naboth/Ahab* <input type="checkbox"/> TA 11a Special Words* <input type="checkbox"/> TA 7b Song* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Optional: Younger Elementary Vol. 2 CD</i>
2 Bible Time	15–20	Listen to what happened when Saul compared himself to David.	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 11b David/Saul* <input type="checkbox"/> TA 11a Special Words*
3 Memory Work	5–10	Memorize Exodus 20:17a and <i>First Catechism</i> Q/A 106. Play <i>Ball Toss</i> to review the Ten Commandments.	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 1a poster** <input type="checkbox"/> Q/A 106 sticker** <input type="checkbox"/> Ball
4 Activities	10–15	Do activities that encourage us to be content with what we have and help us remember the Ten Commandments.	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>At Home 11</i> ** <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils <input type="checkbox"/> Markers or crayons <input type="checkbox"/> SA 11 coloring sheet**
5 Final Focus	5	Read <i>Thankful Thoughts</i> together. Pray, thanking God for providing what we need.	

Total time: 40–60 minutes

* *Younger Elementary Teaching Aids Pack*
 ** *Younger Elementary Student Activities Pack*

Early Arrivals



Ask each child to put something that belongs to him or her in a large paper sack—a watch, friendship bracelet, wallet, pencil, purse or a similar item. Then display all the items and discuss where they came from and who they belong to. Use this discussion to point out that what we have comes to us from God. We can thank him for knowing what we need and providing for our needs. Return the items at the end of the discussion.



Practical Preparation

Check the supplies column and set aside what you need to teach the lesson. Know the special words and their meanings (TA 11a). You will refer to them several times during the lesson.

Separate the TA 11b David/Saul pictures and practice using them as you prepare the Bible story (see sidebar, p. 7). Memorize Exodus 20:17a and *First Catechism* Q/A 106, and have a beach ball or large sponge-type ball handy for memory work review. Go over the commandments ahead of time so you can easily lead the memory work review.

Read over *At Home 11* and become familiar with the activities. At the end of the lesson, you will read *Thankful Thoughts*, the rebus poem found on the back page, with the class. Have available one SA 11 Special Words coloring sheet for each student.



Welcome

5–10 minutes

10

Gather the children around you and show them the pictures of the story of Naboth's vineyard, TA 10. *Say* Last week we learned that King Ahab and Queen Jezebel broke the ninth commandment. *Ask*



- How did they break it? (*They made two men bear false witness against Naboth.*)
- Then what happened to Naboth? (*He was stoned to death.*)
- Which commandment did Ahab and Jezebel break when they had Naboth put to death? (*the sixth commandment—"You shall not murder," Exodus 20:13*)
- What did Ahab do after Naboth was murdered? (*He seized Naboth's vineyard as his own.*)
- Which commandment did Ahab break when he took Naboth's vineyard? (*the eighth commandment—"You shall not steal," Exodus 20:15*)

Now discuss how the trouble between Ahab and Naboth began in the first place. Remind the children that Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard. *Explain that* Naboth would not give his vineyard to the king because the land had belonged to his family for a long time and God didn't want him to give it up.

Tell the children that Ahab was a rich and powerful man, but he was not content with what he had. *Point out the word* content *on* TA 11a *Special Words*. *Read the definition to the children*. *Tell them* Ahab wanted more—he wanted something he could not have; he wanted Naboth's vineyard.

Ask What did Ahab do when Naboth would not give him the land? (*Ahab became angry. He went to bed and pouted; he even refused to eat.*) *Explain that* Ahab began to covet. Show the children the word covet and read the definition (TA 11a).

Read aloud "You shall not covet" from Exodus 20:17a. *Say* The tenth commandment teaches us that coveting is wrong. God tells us to be content with whatever he chooses to give us. King Ahab was not content with what he had. He had envy in his heart. Today we are going to hear about another king—King Saul—who also had envy in his heart. *Show the children the word* envy *and read aloud what the word means*.

Before telling the Bible story, have everyone gather at the song poster (TA 7b). Sing the "Ten Commandments Song." Sing the chorus first, then sing each verse followed by the chorus. Children may enjoy doing any one of the following actions as they sing the song: marching around the room, clapping or holding up the correct number of fingers as they sing about the corresponding commandment.

11a

Content
I am glad that Jesus is my Savior-Friend. He forgives my sin, he loves me and he takes care of me. I am satisfied and thankful. I am content.

11a

Content

Special Words
Covet
King Ahab wanted to have Naboth's vineyard. Ahab began to covet Naboth's vineyard.

Envy
Ahab was angry when he could not have the thing he wanted. His heart was filled with envy.

Covet, Envy

14 "Ten Commandments Song" Songbook, p. 29

7b

Ten Commandments Song

Chorus
God gave us ten commandments, teach us how to love each day— He loves us on how to love him And others along the way.

Sing Chorus Verses
The first commandment tells us to love God alone. The second says have no idols. At work, or school or home.

Sing Chorus
The seventh commandment tells us Be pure in heart, and true. The eighth says do not take things that don't belong to you!

Sing Chorus
The third commandment tells us To trust God's name the best. The fourth says keep the Lord's Day for worship and for rest.

Sing Chorus
The ninth commandment tells us To stand the truth each day. The tenth says be content with The things that come your way.



In Context

Ahead of time, read these passages that provide the backdrop for today's story:

- 1 Samuel 16:14–23
- 1 Samuel 17:33–58
- 2 Samuel 2:1–7



David's Harp

The *kinnor* or lyre was a hand-held stringed instrument with a wooden frame. It was popular in Israel during the time of David, and was one of the instruments used by the Levites, who led Israel in worship.



2

Bible Time

15–20 minutes

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 18. Keep it open as you tell the story of Saul and David.

David was a shepherd. He took care of his father's sheep in the hills, and had taken the time to learn to play a small stringed harp. Now the talented shepherd boy knew how to make beautiful music.

At this time, Saul was king of Israel. But the king was often troubled and unhappy, and his servants went off to find someone who could play music that would make him feel better. They found David, and the young man was brought before the king to play the harp for him.

God's Spirit was with David, and when the young shepherd-musician played, the Lord helped him make the king calm down and feel better. *Display picture 1 on TA 11b.* And so it went . . . each time the king was upset, David played his harp and the king's troubled feelings went away.

At first, Saul liked David very much. He sent a message to David's father saying, "Let David stay with me and work here because I am very pleased with him." So David went back and forth from the king's court to his father's home in Bethlehem and his work there as a shepherd.

Soon, however, Saul and those around him found a reason to pay attention to David for something besides his music. They discovered that he was brave and strong, and that he had faith in the power of the living God!

When the army of Israel was afraid to fight Goliath, the Philistine champion, David stepped forward at once. The tall, fierce warrior had been making fun of Israel's army. David knew it was wrong for Goliath to challenge God and his covenant people, so David gathered some stones and his sling, then went out to meet Goliath. He struck down the Philistine with a single stone and killed him. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran away. *Display picture 2, TA 11b.* David knew that the Lord had given him victory over Goliath.

Saul was so pleased with David's wonderful victory that he brought the young man to live with him for good, giving him a high position in the army. And whatever Saul gave David to do, the godly young man did well. David even became very good friends with Jonathan, Saul's son.

To the people of Israel, David was a wonderful hero. The women came out to dance, play musical instruments and sing. "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his tens of thousands," they sang.

Saul heard their words and became angry. "Listen to what they are saying," he said in his mind. "They are comparing David with

me. Next, they will try to make him king!” Saul began to resent David and became jealous of him. *Show the children the word jealousy on TA 11a Special Words and read what the word means.*

The next day, Saul became very disturbed. As usual, David started playing his harp to soothe the king. Suddenly, Saul grabbed his spear and hurled it at David, hoping to pin him to the wall. *Display picture 3, TA 11b.* But David managed to escape unhurt.

What had happened to Saul? Instead of having love toward David, Saul had allowed envy to fill his heart. Saul now wanted to be popular, brave and successful like David. Saul *coveted* what David had. *Remind the children of the meaning of covet (see TA 11a Special Words).* Saul was not *content*. *Go over what it means to be content.*

After this, Saul sent David away from him and made him a commander in the army, hoping that David would die in battle. But the Lord was with David, protecting him and making him a great leader. When Saul heard how successful David had become, he became even more determined to get rid of him.

But Saul could not harm David because God protected David from Saul. God had chosen David to become the next king of Israel, and after Saul’s death, David was crowned king by the tribe of Judah.

Spend a few minutes discussing what it means to be satisfied and thankful for who we are and what we have. For example, it is fine for seven-year-old Lisa to admire her popular friend Becka. But it is wrong for Lisa to be angry and jealous because Becka is popular. It is important for Lisa to know that Jesus loves her just as much as he loves Becka. And again, if Tom is always wishing he had Will’s toys and computer games, Tom is coveting. Tom needs to understand that God provides for his needs and can give him a heart that is content.

Conclude by saying It is hard not to covet. Sometimes we are like Saul and are jealous of someone else. Sometimes we are like Ahab and pout when we don’t get what we want. We all fall short of keeping the law. But we can turn to Jesus our Savior to forgive our sin and help us to have hearts that are content.

Remember, God is in control of our lives. He knows exactly what we need and he provides for our needs. We can be thankful and satisfied that everything we have comes from him.



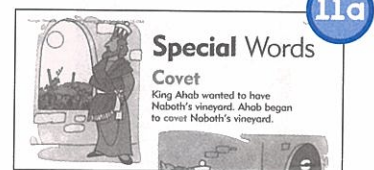
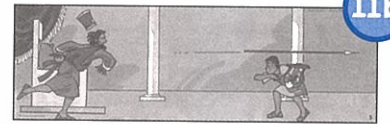
Memory Work

5–10 minutes

Use the memory verse poster or banner (TA 1a) and Q/A 106 sticker to teach children the tenth commandment and *First Catechism Q/A 106*. *Ask* If our hearts are filled with the love of Jesus, will we covet or will we be content? (*We will be content.*)



Jealousy



Covet

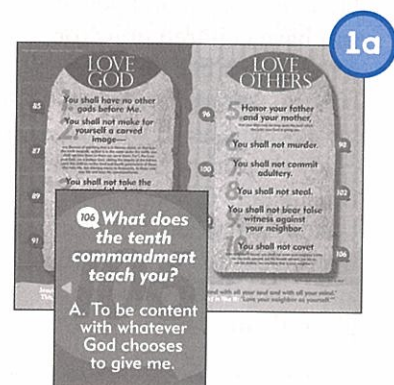


Content



Teaching Tip

Too much to do and too little time? Don't try to do it all. Pick and choose among the suggestions given for each step in the lesson. For example, this week you may decide to omit memory work review in order to spend more time on the Bible story. Next week you may decide to emphasize the memory work and omit working on *At Home* papers during class time.



Now have the children stand in a circle around you. Have a large, lightweight ball handy. Tell the children that they will play *Ball Toss* to review the Ten Commandments. Toss the ball to someone in the circle and ask him or her to recite the first commandment. Then ask the relevant catechism question and have the class respond. Have the child toss the ball back to you. Follow this procedure to review all Ten Commandments and relevant *First Catechism* questions and answers.



Items to Send Home

- SA 11 coloring sheet
- *At Home 11*



Enrichment

Hand out paper and pencils and have children draw (or write down) five of their favorite possessions. Now have them discuss why they enjoy these things and have them draw a happy face beside each item. Tell them that doing this can help them appreciate what God has given them.



Activities

10–15 minutes

Give each child a copy of *At Home 11*, a pencil and crayons or markers. Read aloud the title and directions for the part(s) you choose to do.

In *Be Content*, read aloud the statement at the bottom. As the children do the coloring, talk about what they can tell a friend.

In *The Ten Commandments*, help with the reading and with filling in the words as necessary.

Hand out SA 11 Special Words coloring sheet and crayons. Go over the words and their meanings as the children color the pictures.



Final Focus

5 minutes

Ask the children to turn to the back page of *At Home 11*. Before reading *Thankful Thoughts* together, point out that because Jesus loves us so much, we can trust him to take care of us and supply what we need. **Say You may be different from your friends, and some children may have more games and toys than you have, but you can be content right now with all the good gifts that God has given you.**

Close the lesson in prayer, thanking the Lord for his love and forgiveness. Ask him to give us contented hearts and love for others.

Before the children leave, make sure they have their take-home papers and coloring sheets. Encourage them to have a happy week!