

**First Presbyterian Church  
Youth Group  
LESSON PLAN OUTLINE**

**Name:** Joe Lilley  
**Date:** 1/9/11  
**Event:** TNT

**Grade Level:** Middle and High school  
**Approx. length:** 1.5 hours  
**Subject:** Rules of the Road

**Title:** Rules of the Road and the 10 Commandments-part 1.

**Unit Goal:** To spend time learning about the 10 Commandments and how they should affect our daily lives.

**Scripture:**

*Exodus 20: 1-17*

**WHAT IS (ARE) THE LEARNING OBJECTIVE(S) FOR THIS LESSON?**

For students to have an idea of the 10 Commandments and what they mean, and how to use them in everyday life, and what it means to follow rules.

**WHAT MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT, AND RESOURCES ARE NECESSARY TO TEACH THIS LESSON?**

Bibles

Markers

Dry erase board

Living by the rules handout

Pens/pencils

**WHAT QUESTIONS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED DURING THE LESSON?**

Where in the Bible are the 10 Commandments? If we break a Commandment, can we not go to Heaven?

*From here on, write as if you are talking to the children/students.*

**FOCUSING EVENT (BASED ON THE PRE-REQUISITE SKILLS AND/OR KNOWLEDGE)**

Let the kids come in and get snacks and get comfortable upstairs. Hand out the “Living by the Rules” worksheet and tell the kids that they have as much time as needed to finish the sheet. Have them turn it over at the same time and have them start. The point of the worksheet is that they are supposed to read all of the rules first, which if they do that they’ll realize that they don’t have to actually do everything on the list, only the first 2 rules. Hopefully, at least some of the kids will go run around and do all of the other activities as well. If someone, or more than one, know the trick and they read everything first, then they are the winner. If there is only 1, I have a prize for them. If it’s multiple, or everybody, then just tell them they all won.

Begin the discussion about rules. On the whiteboard, have the kids tell the adults what to write for “Who makes the rules”, “Where are there rules”, and “What are important rules”. Take up about 25% of the board for each section, leaving 1 section open. Possible answers: school, home, church, parents, teachers, adults, cops, etc.

Move into the 10 Commandments. First, ask the kids if they know what they are. Write those down on the board. The order of them is not as important as knowing them—we can put them in order afterwards. Then go over each one, what it is, and what it means to us.

1. **Do not worship any other God.** Sometimes we think that if we praise God, then we will be rewarded. And if we aren’t rewarded, some look someplace else/other religions. So what this means is to stay faithful to God-it’s ok to question His plan, but not to leave him and follow the “flavor of the month”. What about those that don’t worship our God? That’s ok, and it’s ok to study other religions and to know what they stand for. We as Presbyterians do not try to make others worship our God. We do what we do to make our God evident in our lives.
2. **Do not make false idols.** As a society, we build people up and make them “idols” (American Idol, anyone?). Where we can respect and enjoy what people do, we should always keep in mind that they are humans, just like us, and any gifts or abilities that they have come from God. This works for objects as well-idolizing money, video games, ourselves, etc.

3. **Do not misuse the name of the Lord.**-Saying that I know what God wants, i.e. "If you don't go to church, God will punish you". I can't say what God will do-and it is wrong of me to think I know what he wants.
4. **Keep the Sabbath holy.** This is a tough one, as our society has changed so much that we do things on Sundays. While this is the way we live now, we can still keep in mind that we should take time on the Sabbath, as well as every day, to be with God and to think about him and praise him.
5. **Honor your father and mother.**-It's ok to make your own decisions and to live your own life, but you should listen to your parents and use their knowledge.
6. **Do not murder.**-duh. Think about overall violence, sarcasm, and bullying.
7. **Do not commit adultery.**-touchy one. This is about trust and intimacy. We trust who we give our bodies too. This really ties into #8.
8. **Do not steal.**-Don't take other people's property. This includes physical property, ideas, and bodies.
9. **Do not lie.**-goes very much in hand with #8. When we lie, we hurt others and restrict ourselves (lie to one friend and say we are sick because we don't want to go out with them, but then we can't go do anything else because someone might talk about it).
10. **Do not covet.**-Depending on how it's done, this could be ok. If someone has a nice car, you may desire it, or covet it, and it may help you strive to work harder, make more money, and be able to afford your own car just like, or one that you are happy with. But if you are jealous of the car, and your friend that has it, and it only leads to you resenting them for having something nice, then that is not a good thing.

Important thing about these Commandments: we never conquer them. We try to manage how we live using them, but we never get to a point where we can say "OK, got that one done, now what?"

After this discussion, if there's time still available, talk about the importance of making a covenant, or promise, in the things we do. Explain how that's one of the first things that is done on mission trips that some of our youth have been on. Ask if we can make a covenant for our youth group, a list of rules that we think is important for our group, and future groups, to follow. If they are having trouble, share with them the list prepared by youth groups in Europe (hopefully they will be able to work on this on their own and not hear this list, otherwise they may just copy it):

1. Have faith in yourself
2. Respect your parents
3. Be honest
4. Take responsibility for your own life.
5. Live life to the fullest and be passionate.
6. Keep your promises.
7. Work hard to succeed but not to the detriment to others.
8. Be tolerant of others' differences.
9. Be happy and optimistic, even in adversity.
10. Create, don't destroy.

If there is not enough time to do this, or finish it, it can be worked on the next week. Have middle school start the list, and high school can add to it, so that a combined list can be used for both groups.

## **REVIEW, EVALUATE, AND REFLECT**

MS-

Started off with the rules quiz, and it seemed like they read all of them (Chance and Josh were not there yet), but then they still went and did all of them anyway, when all they had to do was the 2<sup>nd</sup> rule, which was to write their name on the paper. So that set up the talk about rules. We started off with the 10 Commandments-they got 4 on their own, then needed some hints for the rest. We talked about the meanings for each one and how we use these to guide us through life. Then I asked them to come up with commandments for youth group, which took some time, and that was the end of the session.

HS-

Again with the rules quiz-everyone got it except for poor Marley. She ran downstairs to do each rule, but we stopped her after only 12 or so. Then we did the same thing we did with middle school. They had quite a bit of fun trying to come up with the commandments for youth group.

For this being more of a "talky" TNT, I think the event went pretty good and kept the kids attention and they were able to have some fun. With all of their ideas for youth group commandments, we will have a vote on them and will make a sign/poster to have up in the youth group hallway/rooms. I will type them up and send them to the Youth Ministry Team as well, and you can help with the voting if you would like! Actually, I'll just type them right here, and if you would like, you can send me your Top 10.

- Respect your parents
- Participate in activities
- Be respectful
- Understand others' opinions
- Be open minded
- Be on time
- Be honest
- Be creative and original
- Pay attention
- Don't be a hater, be a motivator
- Have fun (fun stands for: Friends/United/Neighborly)
- Support your youth group and be a positive role model
- Take responsibility for your actions
- Be happy, be healthy
- Close your mouth and open your ears
- Use your manners
- #6. (another inside joke, but they made me promise I would have it on the list).