

**Week 11 – The Tenth Day of Christmas**  
**The 10 Commandments**  
**Exodus 20: 3-17 / James 2:10**

Objective: The students will learn that God’s standard of perfection, expressed in the law (the 10 commandments) is like a mirror not a string of beads. If the beads are different commandments, and you break just one, you still have the others. But James teaches that if you break just one, or break the law just once, you have broken the whole law. So the law (the 10 commandments) are more like the mirror.

Note: This Bible time has 10 steps, but please note that Steps 5 and 6 are simple a repeat of Steps 3 and 4 with a different verse. Remember to always give motivation before reading the passage. Motivation is usually in the form of a question. The 10<sup>th</sup> step is to sing the song. Singing the song is the key to this Bible time series, which is supposed to be fun for the students as they learn incredible truths from God’s Word.

Materials: a mirror and a string of (preferably glass) beads, a rock or a hammer

Step 1: Link - A mirror and a string of beads

What do I have here? (indicating the mirror and string of beads)

You probably want to know why I have a mirror and a string of beads. Does anyone want to guess? (wait. Anything goes) I have a mirror and a string of beads because I want to compare them. How can we compare a mirror and a string of beads? (wait. Made of same materials. Flat vs. rounded. Usage – beads are a type of jewelry, a mirror is an object we use. Etc.)

Let’s pretend that these beads are made of glass. (maybe they really are.) So the mirror and the beads are made of the same material. Glass. Glass is very breakable, isn’t it? What will happen to my string of beads if I hit just one very hard with this rock? (mimic as you are talking. wait. One less bead, still have the string.) What will happen to my mirror if I hit it very hard just once with this rock? (again mimic. wait. A broken mirror is a broken mirror. It should be thrown away.) I’ll break my mirror if I hit it just once with this rock. Just once! OK, keep that in mind for now. (you want to emphasize ‘just once’ because to prepare them for the verse. Remember the objective.)

Step 2: Introduction

We are up to the tenth day of Christmas in our song. So we know that – who? (wait. My true love, God) – is going to give 10 things. We know that the things will have a meaning from the Bible. Can you think of 10 something from the Bible? (wait. Maybe they’ve heard of the 10 commandments. In Japanese it sounds like “ju’kai”) The 10 commandments! The 10 commandments appear in the song as ‘10 lords a’leaping.’

This song was written in the 1500’s. Four hundred years ago. At that time, in England, ‘lords’ were very powerful leaders. The Lord God gave us the 10 commandments. The 10 commandments lead us to God.

Step 3: Motivation – what they should search for.

Our question today is, are the 10 commandments like this string of beads? Or are the 10 commandments like this mirror? What do you think? (wait. Write ‘Beads? Mirror?’ on the board. See what they think before encountering the Scripture, but don’t write it down)

Step 4: Read James 2:10

Step 5: Answer the question. Let them answer it. The answer is that the 10 commandments are like a mirror – if you break one, the law is broken.

Step 6: Confirm the answer with another passage.

Let’s read another place in the book of James. James calls the 10 commandments ‘.....\*\*\*.....’ What does James say the 10 commandments are like? (Read James 1: 22-25)

Step 7: Have the students answer the second question.

James thinks the 10 commandments are like a mirror. Just like a mirror you can see yourself in the 10 commandments. Do you follow the 10 commandments, or do you break the 10 commandments?

And just like a mirror, if you break the 10 commandments just once, or if you break just one commandment, James says that it’s the same as breaking all of them. Just like one crack in this mirror means the whole mirror is broken.

Step 8: Solicit discussion, comments, questions

Step 9: Follow-up discussion

The Bible teaches that only people who keep the 10 commandments perfectly will go to heaven when they die.

This would be very bad news for all of us. No one is able to follow the 10 commandments perfectly. That is why God sent Jesus to be our Lord. As our Lord, He did follow the law of God perfectly, every day of His life. Pretend that we all have a mirror. Jesus has a mirror also. God sees us in our mirror. If our mirror is broken, God cannot look at us. The only person with a mirror that isn’t broken is Jesus. And whenever anybody believes in Jesus, it’s as if God looks at the believer in Jesus’ perfect mirror. God looks at the believer in Jesus’ perfect mirror forever. Now that’s really good news!

Step 10: BE SURE TO SING THE SONG