



Future-proofing our children

Confirmation 1

Lesson Title: The Fear of God – 1st and 2nd Commandments

A Parent's Guide

Sunday School Home Schooling



Dear Parent

Welcome to **The Fear God – 1st and 2nd Commandments Confirmation 1** lesson.

This document provides you with a minimum guide on how to present the lesson.

How to prepare and present the lesson

Below are some tips on how to go about preparing and presenting the lesson:

| Step | Action |
|------|---|
| 1 | Access the New Apostolic Church Website by keying-in or clicking on the following link from WhatsApp: https://bit.ly/3NACSSH5 |
| 2 | Gather the following tools to ensure that you are ready for the lesson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible • The lesson in PDF format that is already prepared • Child's workbook and a pen, etc. • The Video Clip which is an additional/ optional resource tool • Catechism and Questions and Answers (especially for Confirmation) <p>Note:</p> <p>2.1: An ideal time preferably to present the lesson is after the Sunday morning service in line with the normal Sunday School time to maintain the routine.</p> <p>2.2: Please keep the lesson as concise (brief) as possible, bearing in mind the attention span (to focus on the lesson) of our children - you know your child best! <i>Sunday School normally does not exceed 45 minutes.</i></p> <p>2.3: The lesson is class specific (Confirmation 1).</p> <p>2.4: Please contact your Confirmation Teacher if you need any assistance or if you need any of the above resources.</p> |
| 3 | Pray (see the prayer at the end of this document) and ask God to use you as a tool to present the lesson the way He would want us to present it. |



Present a Confirmation Lesson at Home

How to prepare and present the lesson

We continue to share some tips on how to go about preparing and presenting the lesson:

| Step | Action |
|------|---|
| 4 | Create a pleasant, disturbance free learning environment where you and the child/ren are at the same level. Example: Sit around a table. |
| 5 | Read through the lesson. Re-read the lesson so that you understand it. Watch the video-clip of the lesson to get a better understanding of the lesson. |
| 6 | Make notes for yourself on important points that you would like to remember. |
| 7 | Understand the objective of the lesson that your child must remember. |
| 8 | Present the lesson to your child. |
| 9 | Show your child the video and recap on the meaning. |
| 10 | Refer your child to the activity in the child's workbook (I Also Want To....) |
| 11 | Pray, or ask your child to pray and close the lesson. |

Available tools in terms of Home Schooling

Herewith some tools to enhance the quality of the lesson:

1. WhatsApp chat the lesson with another Sunday school family.
2. Discuss the lesson with other parents to obtain clarity regarding the lesson before it is presented.
3. Feel free to conduct (do) your own research for additional (extra) information.



The Lesson

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Lesson Title | The Fear of God – 1 st and 2 nd Commandments |
| Lesson Objective | I do not want to grieve God because I love Him |

Lesson Summary:

Introduction

In this lesson, we will explain the meaning of “the Fear of God”.

We will also focus on and discuss the 1st and 2nd Commandments as understood in the Old Testament during the time of Moses and in the New Testament during the time of Jesus.

- 1. *I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me.***
- 2. *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.***

Background

- In the Ten Commandments, God addresses all human beings.
- God gave the Ten Commandments to the people of Israel through Moses.
- The purpose of the Ten commandments was to teach and guide the people how to behave towards God and how to conduct themselves with one another.
- The people were obligated to fulfill the Commandments – it formed part of God’s covenant with Israel.
- In the new covenant, Jesus reinforced the Commandments.
- Jesus gave the Commandments a deeper meaning and showed us what our responsibility is towards God, to ourselves and our neighbour.

The Fear of God (in relation to the Commandments)

- In the old covenant, God gave the people commandments as laws to govern relationships with God and among themselves.
- God also described what the consequences and punishment would be if these laws were not fulfilled.
- Many people therefore obeyed only because they feared punishment.
- In the new covenant, the Fear of the Lord has a deeper meaning, as explained in 1 John 4:18.
- *“There is no fear in love; but perfect love cast out fear because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”*
- We keep God’s commandments because we love and honour Him.
- Our love for God is not an expression of fear but of humbleness and trust in Him.



The 1st Commandment:

I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me.

- What did this commandment mean in the **Old Testament** with reference to other gods?
 - The countries that surrounded Israel worshipped several gods (deities)
 - In the first Commandment, God makes it very clear that He is the only God, the Creator of all things and He is the only God to be worshipped and served.
- In the **New Testament**, Jesus gives the first commandment a deeper meaning.
 - He teaches us that this commandment does not only apply to God, the Father, but also to Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
 - God revealed Himself through Jesus Christ, in other words, He appeared to the world: in Jesus Christ
 - To worship anything or anyone other than God is a violation of the first commandment = it is a sin.

The 2nd Commandment:

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

- In the **Old Testament**, God revealed Himself to Moses in the burning bush as “Yaweh” which means “I am who I am”.
 - The Jews respected God and would not even speak the name Yaweh.
 - They did this in an effort to avoid the danger of taking the name of God in vain, even unintentionally.
- In the **New Testament**, human beings are to speak of God in love and respect
- The second Commandment warns us that one should keep all things that have to do with God and His name holy.
- As Christians we have a responsibility to keep the name of God holy.
- How do we take the name of God in vain?
 - Abusing the name of God (also known as blasphemy)
 - Cursing (swearing) using the name of God
 - Using God’s name while telling a lie
 - Careless use of the names God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit
- This is the only Commandment that contains a threat or a punishment
- The Bible does not tell us what the punishment is.

We keep this commandment because we love God, not because we fear the punishment.



What does this lesson mean for us today?

1. We keep this commandment because we love God.
2. We fear him because we love him, not because we fear the punishment. This fear is not based on being scared of God.
3. Humbleness and a fear based on honouring God, being obedient to Him, and worshipping Him is a sign of our love to Him.
4. We do not use God's name other than to earnestly and respectfully talk with or of Him.

Some questions that we can ask:

1. How many other names for God do you know?
Answer: *Father, Lord, Creator, Eternal one, Almighty,*
2. What will we do if we fear the Lord?
Answer: *We will sin less and less, – remain faithful to God. – do His will. – follow God's Son in those whom He has sent. – bring honour to God's name and not misuse it.*
3. Can you say the 1st Commandment off by heart?
Answer: *I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods before me.*
4. What does it mean when we worship anything or anyone other than God?
Answer: *They become gods when – they become the most important thing in our lives and fill our hearts completely. – we put our trust in them. – we worship them and sacrifice to them. This could be living beings, objects, natural phenomena, real or fictional beings. E.g., statues, money, animals, figurines, stones, mountains, stars, trees, famous people, fortune telling, magic, satanism, witchcraft and so on.*
5. Can you say the 2nd Commandment off by heart?
Answer: *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.*
6. What does it mean to take the Lord's name in vain?
Answer: *It basically means we misuse the name of the Lord. We can do this by saying the Lord's name without realizing it. We say it in our everyday way of speaking (Oh God, Good Lord), casual talk (Oh my God!), when we are surprised by something, shocked about something, excited about something (OMG!), when we swear or are angry about something (God!, Jesus Christ!)*...

