

NKJV Edition

NEHEMIAH[®] KIDS

Nehemiah 1:11

The Ten Commandments

Level 2: Fall Leader Guide

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NEHEMIAH KIDS: The Ten Commandments
Level 2: Fall Leader Guide

New design 2019
Revised 2013, 2019

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Published by
L.I.T. Ministries
412 Mercedes St., Suite F
Benbrook, TX 76126

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PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**“For the Lord will
greatly bless you . . .
○ only if you
carefully obey . . .
all these
commandments.”**

(Deuteronomy 15:4, 5)

Table of Contents

<i>Welcome</i> to Nehemiah Kids!	3
Introduction: The Ten Commandments, 3	
Developing a Christian Worldview, 3	
The Cross, 4	
The Life of Obedience, 5	
WARNING!, 6	
Disciple Group Information, 8	
Orientation, 10	
P.R.A.Y. Acrostic Cards, 12	
Weekly Memory Verses, 13	
<i>Week One:</i> No Other Gods	14
<i>Week Two:</i> No Idols	18
<i>Week Three:</i> Do Not Misuse God’s Name	22
<i>Week Four:</i> Remember the Sabbath	26
<i>Week Five:</i> Honor Your Parents (Part 1).....	30
<i>Week Six:</i> Honor Your Parents (Part 2)	34
<i>Week Seven:</i> Do Not Kill	38
<i>Week Eight:</i> Be Faithful	42
<i>Week Nine:</i> Do Not Steal	46
<i>Week Ten:</i> Do Not Lie (Part 1)	50
<i>Week Eleven:</i> Do Not Lie (Part 2)	54
<i>Week Twelve:</i> Do Not Covet.....	58
<i>Week Thirteen:</i> Make God Number One (Part 1)	62
<i>Week Fourteen:</i> Make God Number One (Part 2)	66
<i>Week Fifteen:</i> Love Your Neighbor (Part 1).....	70
<i>Week Sixteen:</i> Love Your Neighbor (Part 2)	74
<i>Week Seventeen:</i> Doing What God Wants (Part 1)	78
<i>Week Eighteen:</i> Doing What God Wants (Part 2)	82



Welcome to Nehemiah Kids!

Disciple Group Bible Study for Nehemiah Kids (N.K.) is a great opportunity to get to know the children in your group and build accountability. The materials in this book are designed to help you succeed as you plan for Bible study with your small group each week. These materials are very simple and should give you plenty to discuss and do during your Disciple Group time. The number one rule of teaching and being a discipler is to *surrender*. Surrender to God for His filling. He will empower you to model and exemplify Christ. He will also guide you as you lead your group in prayer and worship.

Introduction: The Ten Commandments

Get ready for the next eighteen weeks as you study The Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are the basis from which much of Scripture has been built. As a believer in Christ, it is important to understand the basic commands of God in order to come to a deeper understanding of the grace of God given us through Jesus Christ. Part of the continuation of your study of The Cross is to develop a basic understanding of the precepts of God—to become a light in a dark world (Matthew 5:16). As you study God’s Word and live out the steps of The Cross, you will experience the abundant life that Jesus promised (John 10:10).

Developing a Christian Worldview

There are many beliefs in our world. These beliefs can be considered a person’s worldview. A worldview is how a person determines what they believe about who they are as a person, their purpose for being here on Earth, what they believe to be truth, what they believe about family, and how they view the needs of the world around them. For the Christian, our view of all these things is guided by what the Bible says.

As Christians, we look at things differently because we have a tool that guides us—God’s Word. On sunny days, some people wear sunglasses to filter out the sun’s rays. They find it easier to see with sunglasses on bright days. As we live in the world, we need to have a filter to help us determine what is right and wrong. It is like putting on sunglasses to block out the sun. So the believer takes up the Bible to block out those views that do not line up with God’s Word. Parents need to have a Christian worldview and instill in their child a biblical perspective of the world.

“Parent Talk: Christian Worldview” is the Day 6 devotional for each week in the student devotional book. It is based on the admonition in Deuteronomy 6:6-7, “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.” This section is designed to assist parents in helping their children apply what they are learning.

The Cross

The Cross will be your tool to help your Disciple Group stay on track in their walk with God. It is a formula for spiritual growth as you and your students learn to put it into practice. God has a plan for every person's life. He desires a relationship with us. He has made this relationship possible through Jesus Christ. Some of your students will have already made the discovery while others may not have. Your responsibility as their Disciple Group leader is to continue pointing students to Christ—first for salvation, and second for them to experience the abundant life that Jesus promises (John 10:10).

Salvation is key, and from that point the journey begins. Then we have to constantly remember we must live a life that is totally and completely dependent upon and surrendered to Him. From there, we find direction for our lives through His Word. God's Word always points to God and His purpose for our lives. His Word is the road map for our lives. His Word is the instruction manual by which we put our lives together. It is our light through a dark world bent on destroying our lives, and it is our handbook for discipling children. We teach them to look at life through biblical eyes. They must learn to face life with the instruction manual in front of them. As we submit our lives to Him, we can find His will for our lives through His Word.

We have the wonderful invitation in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." First John 5:14–15 says, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." Therefore, we can come boldly before the Lord in submission to Him, and He will answer our requests. This is how we have a personal relationship with Him.

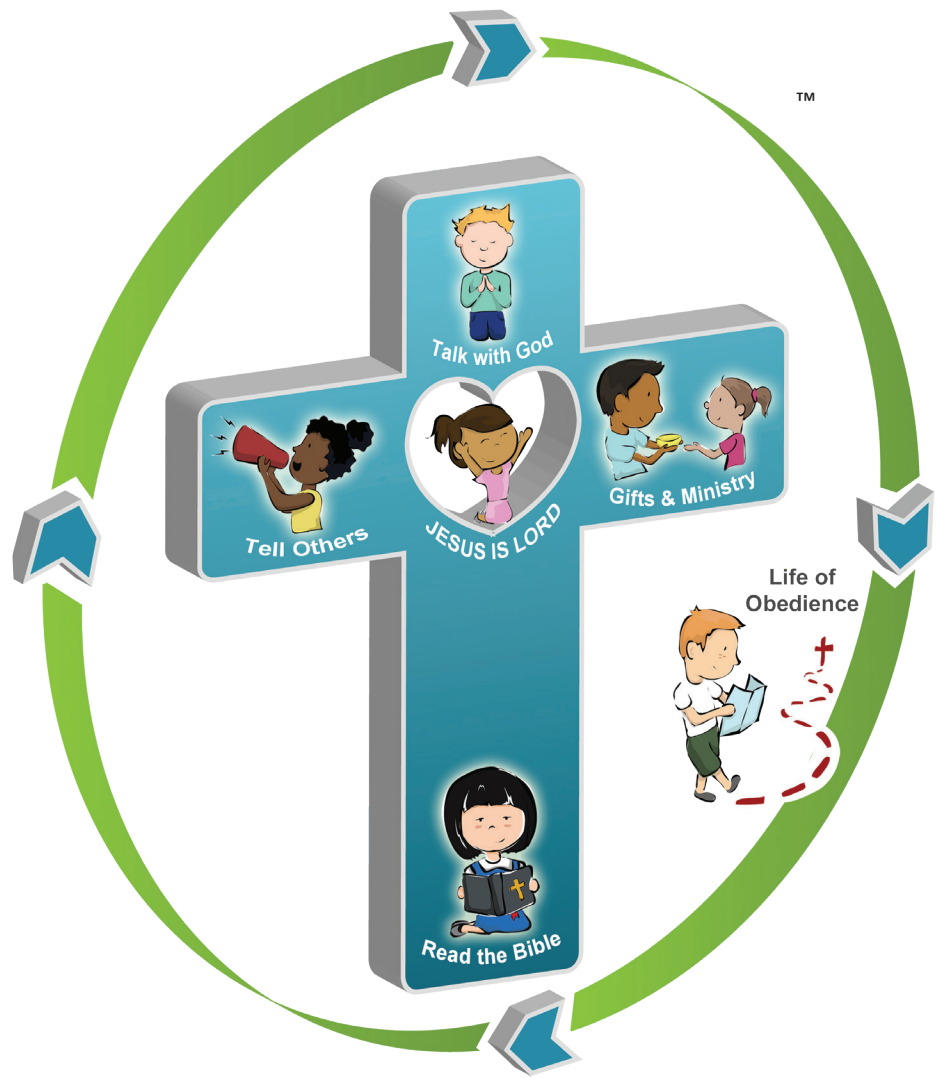
The vertical part of The Cross represents our relationship with God. Jesus said: "Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment" (Matthew 22:37–38). The second part of our relationship with God becomes horizontal. "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:39–40). Looking at The Cross, we are called to "Tell Others" the wonderful Gospel message, and God has given us gifts for ministry. When we are doing all the parts of The Cross, we are living out a life of obedience to Christ.



The Life of Obedience

Parts of The Cross

- **The Center of The Cross—Jesus Is Lord:** Jesus Christ must be Lord of every area of the N.K.s' lives. They will learn to allow Him to live His life through them. (Galatians 2:20)
- **The Base of The Cross—Read the Bible:** In order to find God's will, they must read His Word daily. (Psalm 119:105)
- **The Top of The Cross—Talk With God:** Prayer is the open invitation to spend time talking with God each day. The children can talk with Him anytime and anywhere. (Jeremiah 33:3)
- **The Left Side of The Cross—Tell Others:** Jesus commands His followers to tell the world about His great love for them. The N.K.s will be challenged to share their faith daily. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- **The Right Side of The Cross—Gifts and Ministry:** The Holy Spirit has given gifts to every child of God, and the children are to use these gifts to serve God in the church and in the world. (Ephesians 2:10)
- **The Circle around The Cross—Life of Obedience:** The Lord Jesus calls believers to obey His leadership. In following the parts of The Cross, the N.K.s can accomplish His desires for their lives.



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WARNING!

PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE YOU BEGIN THIS STUDY!

Jesus calls us to “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20a). Jesus lived a life of abandonment to the Father. We are calling you to do the same (Luke 9:23). Jesus modeled for His disciples a life of faith, integrity, and grace. Through His example, He also equipped His disciples to change the world. You are called to do the same. Number one, you are called to be a role model. That means, like your students, you are in the Word of God daily. When you go to your small group, you should have done the same Bible study as they have and have your memory verse memorized. So, make sure you get a copy of the student devotional book from the beginning. Do not ask them to do anything you are not doing. Your life must be one of integrity. Do not say one thing and live another. Children can pick up on this rather quickly. You can easily become a stumbling block to them. Just like Jesus, you are to equip and release the children in your group to minister using their spiritual gifts.

Here are some quick pointers:

- 1. Hold them accountable.** The more you encourage your students to do their devotionals each day, the more you will see transformation in their lives. Call them every week. By your constant encouragement, you will see life changes. The greatest thing is that they will have already studied what you will be talking about in your small group, and you will be able to help them apply it.
- 2. Find out where they are spiritually.** Do they know Christ? If not, you will find in the Leadership Training Handbook tools for learning how to share Christ and how to counsel with a child and lead them to the Lord.
- 3. Release them to minister in your D-Group.** This means once you know where they are spiritually, administer the Spiritual Gift Test that is in the back of your Training Handbook. Determine what their gifts are and then begin getting them involved in teaching, praying, keeping records, helping in the class, and ministering to one another.
- 4. Do it!** If you will take these steps, you will become a disciplemaker, and you will see their lives changed before your eyes. You see, children connect with their faith through action. Faith is not something that is taught; it is caught by living it out in front of them. The spiritual gifts of children give them identity and purpose in the body of Christ. Like you, they are called to minister right now.
- 5. They do not have a “baby” Holy Spirit.** When a child receives Christ as their Savior and Lord, they are sealed by the Holy Spirit—THE Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13). This means they are called to minister now. One of your greatest joys will be to watch them grow using their gifts. This is a fulfillment of your calling as a teacher (Ephesians 4:11-13).

Now go and make disciples. Throughout the coming weeks, you will see milestones that can move you into becoming a life-changing leader in your church. This guide is your tool for helping children have a deeper walk with Christ. Remember, the more you can have them take on roles in your group, the more you will develop them into the ministers they are called to be.

NOTE: This Leader Guide for Disciple Group is loaded with materials. You do not have to do everything in the guide. This gives you the freedom to allow the Holy Spirit to lead your group. Prayer should be the first thing you do. Also, as you move your group and begin to engage them in using their gifts, you can then give them parts of the Leader Guide to teach using their gifts.

Milestone One: I Do, You Watch (Be a model for them.): As the leader, do your daily quiet times. You do all the preparations and teaching, and you model for them a person who is faithful in their walk with Christ.

Milestone Two: I Do, You Help (Invite them to help.): Find out where your kids are spiritually. Do they know Christ? If not, share the Gospel with them and invite them to join in. Have them take the Spiritual Gift Test. Begin to allow them to teach small parts of the lesson, lead the prayer time, help in the class, etc.

Milestone Three: You Do, I Help (Give them more responsibility.): By now, you will begin to see an excitement among the children in your group as they begin to discover their spiritual gifts and use them in your group. Remember, they are doing the Bible study at home, so this allows you more and more freedom to let them be active and lead within your group.

Milestone Four: You Do, I Watch (Allow them to take ownership.): This may seem a little crazy, but what you are doing will have a life-changing impact on their lives. You will have become obedient to your calling to equip these younger saints for ministry. Read Ephesians 4:11-13 for a clearer understanding of what this means.

Milestone Five: You Do! As your group is being led through this process, you will see and hear amazing things. We have heard many stories of children who have been equipped and have started teaching Bible studies at their schools and leading their friends to Christ. The unique thing is that the Holy Spirit will guide them to do amazing things, all because you equipped and released them to minister.

This may sound out of the ordinary, but it really is not. Jesus has a plan for every believer in Christ. You can have an amazing part of it by allowing them to discover God's purpose for their lives and by fanning the flame of their gifts and empowering them to use them. It is our deepest prayer that you will find the joy of discipling, equipping, and empowering the next generation in your church.



Disciple Group Information

Each Disciple Group will be made up of three to five children. Before going to your small group, go through the materials and become familiar with your studies. The Disciple Group Bible study will complement what your N.K.s studied at home in their daily quiet times during the previous week. This Leader Guide is designed to provide you with Bible study aids and activities to help the students learn the biblical concepts you are teaching. You will most likely not have enough time to do everything presented here, so plan on using the materials that you believe will be most effective with your students. The following is a basic outline of each week's lesson:

Lesson Topic: In Level 2: Fall, the children will learn about The Ten Commandments. A definition of each week's lesson topic will appear at the beginning of the lesson.

Learning Objective: The learning objective is the desired outcome of each week's small group Bible study time. This identifies the goal your group should try to achieve each week.

Memory Verse: The N.K.s are given a memory verse to learn each week with their devotionals. One of the most important parts of Disciple Group time is reciting the memory verse. Take time each week during the Bible Study Review to make sure they have memorized their verse. You should also review the past weeks' verses so the children can always keep them in their hearts and minds.

Spiritual Preparation: These prayer suggestions are provided for you to pray about as you prepare for your Disciple Group time. They will guide you in the direction of personal preparation and how to pray specifically for the children in your group.



Opening Prayer: Begin your Disciple Group time with prayer. Pray on the armor of God first because you have an enemy that wants to frustrate and hinder your Bible study time together. God has provided the armor for your protection.

The Armor of God can be found in Ephesians 6:10-17. In order to teach your group the importance of the armor, each week have them all stand up before prayer time and visually put it on. For example: Belt of truth—Using their hands, have them pretend to put a belt around their waists. Breastplate of righteousness—They can act like they are sliding it over their heads and strapping it on. Sandals of peace—Have them sit down and “put on” their sandals. Complete the armor with the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.

Starting with prayer will help you and your students get focused and prepared for Disciple Group time.



Biblical Explanation: The biblical explanation gives you a brief interpretation of Scripture, a summary of the N.K.s' daily devotionals, and further insights for the Disciple Group time.



Bible Story: The Bible story gives the children a biblical illustration of the concepts they are learning in each week's Bible study.



Bible Study Review: This section provides the students with the opportunity to quote their memory verse for the week, recite previous weeks' verses, and review the past week's devotionals that they did at home. The review questions are designed to evaluate learner comprehension. After asking these questions, you may find that your group lacks understanding in a particular area. If so, discuss the materials they did not understand.



The Cross: The Cross reminds the children each week of how we relate to God and to others in living a life of obedience to the Lord. This section will explain how each week's lesson applies to The Cross.



Object Lesson: Some children are visual learners. The object lessons are provided to further enhance learning and help give children a better grasp of biblical principles.



Learning Activity: These activities give the children a hands-on activity that will reinforce the message of each week's lesson. It will give them a practical way to apply the lesson to their lives and encourage them to "live it out" when they leave Disciple Group time. If the children do not understand how to apply the lesson to their daily lives, they will not have learned effectively.

P.R.A.Y.: The P.R.A.Y. acrostic is a reminder of how to pray daily and in small group time. You want to help children develop a daily prayer time beginning with praise and thanksgiving (P), followed by confession and repentance of sin (R). Teach your N.K.s to ask, or make their requests known to God (A). The most important part of the Christian life is SURRENDER, or yield (Y). This is key to their personal growth and gives them a daily reminder of who is in control. The prayer guides relate to each week's lesson and are provided as prayer starters. You, the leader, might say the prayer guide, then each N.K. can say a related prayer. You might want to sit in a circle and pray around the circle. Lead the group in praise and thanksgiving, then move into confession of sin. Next, have them tell God their needs. End prayer time with them yielding and surrendering their lives to God. It is important for you to allow the Holy Spirit to guide each child as they pray.

Make a copy of the P.R.A.Y. acrostic cards on **page 12**, cut them apart, and give each card to a child. When it is time to do each type of prayer, have the child with that card hold it so that everyone can see. This will help remind each child how you are praying at the time.



Leader Notes & N.K. Prayer Requests: This section is provided as a place for you to write down any thoughts or ideas you may have as you study and prepare for Disciple Group time each week. You can also write down any prayer requests your N.K.s share with you when you make your weekly phone calls.

Orientation

Begin by welcoming the children in your group to Nehemiah Kids. (You can invite their parents to your first Disciple Group meeting so that they can learn about the N.K. devotional books and what is expected of their children during their daily devotional times.) This small group session will allow you to get acquainted with the children in your group. In addition, it will give you an opportunity to explain how the daily devotionals work.

Give each child a copy of the N.K. Level 2: Fall devotional book. Have them write their name in the front of their book then turn to the following pages to learn how to use their devotional book.

Welcome to Nehemiah Kids!

(page 5). Read through this section as it gives a brief description of what this book contains.

How to Have a Quiet Time **(page 6).**

Take your time explaining to the group how to spend time with the Lord. Be sure to read the prayer for putting on the armor of God. This prayer is written to help the N.K.s understand the symbolic meaning of each piece of armor and to pray for God to cover each area of their lives with His presence, His Word, His power, and His truth. It is very important that we put on God's spiritual protection daily because it gives us the ability to stand against the enemy's attacks. The students are reminded to put on the armor of God at the beginning of each week's devotionals (see the Week One box on **page 8**). Encourage your students to put on the armor of God every day.

The Life of Obedience **(page 4).**

The Cross is a visual representation of living the Christian life in obedience to Jesus Christ. We will be looking at The Cross repeatedly throughout this Bible study session. The students will become extremely familiar with its various parts, and you will want to encourage them to live out every part of The Cross.

Weekly Memory Verses **(page 7).**

These are the weekly memory verses your children will be learning during the next eighteen weeks. The memory verse for each week is referenced at the beginning of each week's devotional to remind the N.K.s to learn it (see the Week One box on **page 8**). Explain to your group that memorizing Scripture can be easy if they will start on the first day of the week instead of waiting until the last day to do it. Encourage them to begin by memorizing only two to three words the first day, then adding a few more words each day after that until they have it down.

Week One Devotionals **(page 8).**

At the beginning of each week's devotionals, there is a box with the lesson topic and definition (Week One's lesson topic is "God"), their memory verse for the week (they need to practice memorizing it every day), and the armor of God prayer (remind your students to put on the armor of God every day). There is a devotional for six days of the week. The N.K.s can write the day of the week on the blank line at the beginning of each day's lesson. The daily devotionals begin with a key statement of what the devotional is about, a Bible verse with fill-in-the-blanks (it is recommended for them to use the **New King James Version** of the Bible), some days have a puzzle to work, and PRAY gives them guidance for praying and writing in their Prayer Journal. The N.K.s need to do one devotional each day. If they get behind, they can use their extra day to catch up.

Parent Talk: Christian Worldview (page 11).

Explain how the Parent Talk section works. On Day 6 of each week, a parent needs to sit down with the child and discuss the devotionals for that week. The N.K. will be required to quote the memory verse to their parent, answer review questions, and pray with their parent. When they have completed this section, the parent needs to write their initials and the date in the box that follows the devotional. **(Parents should be shown page 5 in the devotional books where they can read about the Parent Talk sections.)**

Prayer Journal (page 80).

Turn to the Prayer Journal and show the students how they can easily find the Prayer Journal by looking for the dark edges on the journal pages. Part of our vision for N.K. is to develop prayer warriors out of children. A child in their innocence can do tremendous battle for their family, friends, and the world. They just need to be taught how by your example, modeling for them how to do it. The Prayer Warrior Journal gives specific things to pray for each day. Prayer is spiritual warfare and the privilege of every believer in Christ. Spiritual warfare is REAL! Through prayer, we put on the armor of God for our spiritual protection. It is very important to encourage your group to put on the armor of God daily so that they can stand against the enemy's assaults (Ephesians 6:10-18).

- **Sunday**—Encourage your N.K.s to search their hearts before the Lord on a daily basis. Encourage them to ask God to show them any sin in their lives and to confess their sins to be made right with Him (1 John 1:9).
- **Monday**—Families are in a major battle today. If the enemy can destroy a marriage, it will do major damage and pain to the children living in that family. Encourage your group to pray for their parents on a regular basis for God's protection over them.
- **Tuesday**—The Top Five. Your N.K.s will know lost friends and family members. Have them write down the names of their top five on Tuesday in their Prayer Journal,

and encourage them to pray daily for the salvation of these people.

- **Wednesday**—The responsibility of every believer is to “Go” (Matthew 28:19-20). We are also called to pray for the nations. There are billions of people around the world who have not heard the Gospel message one time. On Wednesday, encourage your group to pick three nations to pray for, and pray that the Lord would send out Christians to share the Good News in that country.
- **Thursday**—Find out who your church supports on the mission field and add their names in your Prayer Journal. They need our prayers as they proclaim the Good News of Christ around the world.
- **Friday**—With the Friday prayer guide, children are reminded to pray for various people in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-3).
- **Saturday**—Every nation needs revival and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Encourage your group to humble themselves and pray for our nation so that God might bring healing in our land.

Incentive Pages (pages 2-3). The Incentive Page is designed to reward the students for completing all of their devotionals each week, learning their weekly memory verses, exhibiting good behavior during Disciple Group meetings, and doing the Parent Talk section with a parent each week. The N.K.s will receive a sticker for each of the four categories already mentioned if completed each week. Their goal is to get as many stickers by the end of eighteen weeks as possible. At the end of the session, they will be rewarded the number of tokens as the number of stickers they received during the session. If your church provides prizes, the N.K.s will be able to use the tokens to “purchase” fun items that will be made available to them at that time.

P.R.A.Y.

Acrostic Cards

Copy these cards onto cardstock and cut out to use during your Disciple Group prayer time.

Praise and Thanksgiving	Repent and Confess
Ask	Yield and Surrender

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Weekly Memory Verses

The following are the weekly memory verses that the N.K.s will be learning. It is important that you also learn the memory verses. As leaders, we want to be examples for our students, and we should be faithful in Scripture memory ourselves.

Week One—“You shall have no other gods before Me.” (Exodus 20:3)

Week Two—“You shall not make for yourself a carved image.” (Exodus 20:4a)

Week Three—“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.” (Exodus 20:7a)

Week Four—“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.” (Exodus 20:8)

Week Five—“Honor your father and your mother.” (Exodus 20:12a)

Week Six—“Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.” (Colossians 3:20)

Week Seven—“You shall not murder.” (Exodus 20:13)

Week Eight—“You shall not commit adultery.” (Exodus 20:14)

Week Nine—“You shall not steal.” (Exodus 20:15)

Week Ten—“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” (Exodus 20:16)

Week Eleven—“But those who deal truthfully are His delight.” (Proverbs 12:22b)

Week Twelve—“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.” (Exodus 20:17a)

Week Thirteen—“Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment.” (Matthew 22:37-38)

Week Fourteen—“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.” (Matthew 6:33a)

Week Fifteen—“And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Matthew 22:39)

Week Sixteen—“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another.” (John 13:34a)

Week Seventeen—“If you love Me, keep My commandments.” (John 14:15)

Week Eighteen—“You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.” (Deuteronomy 13:4)

Lesson Topic—God

The one and only true God—
God the Father

Learning Objective

The N.K.s will understand that
God is to be first in their lives.

Memory Verse

“You shall have no other gods
before Me.” (Exodus 20:3)

Spiritual Preparation

Call the N.K.s in your group,
and ask them if they have any
specific prayer needs. Pray for
each of them by name.

Pray for God to open the hearts
of your students to know Him as
their one and only true God.

Pray for the children to
understand that they should
live daily for Christ and make
Him Number One in their lives.

Totally surrender yourself to
Jesus Christ, and ask the Holy
Spirit to fill and empower you
for your Disciple Group time.



Opening Prayer

1. Begin your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.
2. Have your N.K.s stand up and pray on the armor of God piece-by-piece. (They can turn to **page 8** in their devotional books to see the pieces of armor. Remind them of the importance of praying on the armor every day as they begin their daily quiet time.)
3. Ask the students in your group to share their prayer requests and praises, then have each child pray for the person on their right.
4. End the prayer time by asking the Lord to help the N.K.s listen and learn during Disciple Group today.



Biblical Explanation

The following explanations give deeper insight to the daily devotionals the N.K.s have completed this past week:

- Day 1: God is Number One.** “How long, O you sons of men, Will you turn my glory to shame? How long will you love worthlessness? And seek falsehood?” (Psalm 4:2). In this Psalm, David wrote about his frustration with others around him who were looking to false gods as their hope. He knew there is really only one God, and we should put our trust solely in Him.
- Day 2: Put God first.** “Blessed is that man who makes the Lord his trust, And does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies” (Psalm 40:4). We are blessed when we put our trust solely in the Lord. We are not to trust in other things to give us joy or blessed lives; the Lord is the One who gives us every good gift (James 1:7). We should acknowledge this and praise God continually for it. There are many things in our lives that distract us from making God Number One. We should recognize what those distractions are and determine how not to let them keep us from trusting in God and praising Him continually.
- Day 3: Jesus is the only way.** “You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you” (Deuteronomy 6:14). Also, “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me’” (John 14:6). Often in the Old Testament, God’s people were warned not to follow other gods. Many of the people groups that lived near God’s people followed and trusted in other gods. People around us have different ideologies and other religions they follow that represent “other gods” to us. In fact, many people today say there are many ways to God and that a person can trust in just about anything as long as they “have faith” and do what is good. This belief is false. The Bible teaches clearly that there is only one way to God, and it is through trusting in Jesus Christ as one’s Savior and Lord. Trusting in any other way will lead to eternal separation from God.

Day 4: Do not have other gods. “Take heed to yourselves, lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them” (Deuteronomy 11:16). As humans we are susceptible to peer pressure. If a lot of people around us believe something and promote it, it can be difficult for us to consider it false. This is why it is important to stay in God’s Word regularly, to be able to know what is true and what is false. If we are not careful to remain in God’s Word and follow it as our foundation, we may be easily swayed into believing or following things that are false. God wants to be our one and only God.

Day 5: Love the Lord with all your heart. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:5). God wants us to love Him with all of our being. He wants to be our greatest affection, and He wants us to love Him as wholeheartedly as possible during our entire lives. We should consider ways we can grow to love Him more and more with all that we are. This would include spending time with Him and obeying His Word every day to demonstrate our love for Him.

Day 6: Give your life fully to God and follow His ways. “But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul” (Joshua 22:5). Romans 12:1 says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” We must be “careful” not to give into our natural bent toward sin and end up not following our Lord. The world encourages us in many different ways to neglect loving and following God and to follow “whatever feels right” or “follow our heart.” Our hearts are sinful, so we must be intentional about keeping our hearts fixed on God, giving our entire self for His service. It is not natural to love God with all of our being and to offer ourselves as living sacrifices to Him, but this is what we are called to do. We must actively choose to go against what the world calls us to believe and do, and choose to follow God as our one and only Lord.

Bible Story

Tell the story of Josiah, focusing on how he took the law of God very seriously and followed God as Lord (2 Kings 22:1–23:30). Here are some key points to highlight in the telling of the story:

- Josiah was 8 years old when he became king.
- He did what was right, choosing to love and obey God.
- Josiah’s workers found the book of Deuteronomy from the Bible, which had been lost and not read for many years.
- When King Josiah heard the words of Deuteronomy, including The Ten Commandments and other things God wanted His people to do, He realized God’s people had not been following what God wanted them to do.
- Josiah was saddened and sorry for his sins and the sins of the people in his kingdom.
- He asked some of his most important leaders to pray to God for help, then he got information from the prophetess Huldah on what was to take place.



The Cross

Explain the importance of The Cross:

- The center of The Cross is “Jesus Is Lord.” He is to be your one and only God whom you love most and follow as your Number One.
- The base of The Cross is “Read the Bible.” You need to read God’s Word every day in order to know what He wants you to do and what is true. The world often says that wrong things are right, so you need the Bible to teach you what is right and wrong.
- The top of The Cross is “Talk With God.” God loves you and wants you to grow more and more in love with Him. One way you do this is by talking with Him a lot.
- The left side of The Cross is “Tell Others.” Part of following God as your Number One is telling others about Him and about how they can be part of His family by choosing to accept Jesus into their lives as their Savior and Lord.
- The right side of The Cross is “Gifts and Ministry.” God gives all of those in His family special gifts to serve Him. One way you can love and follow Him completely is to use the gifts and skills He has given you to serve Him.
- The circle around The Cross represents a “Life of Obedience.” When you do all the parts of The Cross, you are living a life of obedience to your Lord, God.

Learning Activity

In this activity, each child will make a wordless book. Before going to your Disciple Group meeting, collect and prepare the following items:

- Yellow construction paper (cut into 6 ½" x 3 ½" pieces; one piece per child)
- Black, red, white, and green construction paper (cut into 6" x 3" pieces; one piece of each color per child)
- Glue sticks
- A small print-out of what the colors mean (one for each child)
- Make a wordless book ahead of time to show the children

Give each child a piece of each color of paper. Have them fold each piece in half, forming a 3" x 3" piece (yellow will be 3 ¼" x 3 ¼"). Lay the folded pieces of paper left-to-right on the table in this order: yellow, black, red, white, green. Next, pick up the yellow piece and open it with the center crease running up and down. This will be your book cover. Take the black piece and glue the back side of the left half to the inside left half of the yellow piece of paper (line up the center creases). Then, glue the back side of the right half of the black piece to the back side of one-half of the red piece. Keep doing this until all the pieces are glued together. Finish by gluing the back of the right half of the green piece to the right half of the yellow piece (inside of back cover). You should have a book that has the yellow as the front and back cover. When you open to the first page, you should have the black page fully open, then the red page, the white page, and the green page.

Explanation of the colors:

- **The yellow front cover** represents Heaven, where God is on His throne. The glory of God shines brightly in Heaven. We want to be with God in Heaven one day, but our sin separates us from God.
- **The black page** represents our sin. The darkness of sin is very serious. God is holy, or perfect, and He cannot accept us in our sin. The punishment for sin is death. Thankfully, we do not have to pay the price for our sin.
- **The red page** represents what Jesus did for us. He died on the cross for our sins. He shed His blood in our place so that we can have forgiveness for our sins. In order to receive God's forgiveness, we must accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.
- **The white page** represents forgiveness of sin. When we accept Jesus as Lord, our sins are forgiven. God washes, or cleanses, us from the filth of our sin. Once our sins are forgiven, we can grow in a personal relationship with God.
- **The green page** represents growth in Christ. When we pray, read the Bible, and go to church, we learn how He wants us to live. We grow to know Him better, to do what is pleasing to the Lord, and to tell others about Jesus.
- **The yellow back cover** reminds us that if we are saved, we will enjoy eternal life in Heaven with God.

Encourage the children to show their books to their family and friends and to tell them what the colors mean.

P.R.A.Y.

Close your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.

Hand out the P.R.A.Y. acrostic cards to different children in your group. Ask each student to hold up their card when it is time to pray that type of prayer. Leader, start the prayer time with these prayer guides. Encourage each child to pray.

P—Praise and thanksgiving

Thank God for making you and for giving you the Bible, which helps you know how He wants you to live.

R—Repent and confess

Repent for not always putting God first in your life. Ask Him to forgive you.

A—Ask

Ask the Lord to help you not to let other things in life distract you from following Him fully.

Y—Yield and surrender

Yield your life to God today, and declare that He is your one and only God. Give Him your love, and serve Him with your whole life.

You, as the leader, should close the prayer time to bring focus and a good ending to your time of prayer.



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