

Each session follows three steps. **Observe** what the text says, **Interpret** what it means, and **Apply** it to your life. Plan on 25 to 35 minutes per session. Read every passage in your own Bible before answering.

“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

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Reading the commandment closely

OBSERVE

1. Read **Exodus 20:4-6**. List the three places the commandment says not to take likenesses from.

2. What two actions toward images does verse 5 forbid?

3. How far does God's judgment reach, and how far does His mercy reach? (Compare **Deuteronomy 7:9**.)

INTERPRET

4. Read **Ezekiel 18:20**. How does this verse help explain "visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children"? Which words in **Exodus 20:5** limit that phrase?

5. Read **Jeremiah 3:20** and **2 Corinthians 11:2**. What kind of jealousy is God's jealousy?

The golden calf

OBSERVE

Read **Exodus 32:1–35** and fill in the chart.

STEP	VERSE	WHAT HAPPENED	A MODERN VERSION OF THIS
Impatience	32:1		
Borrowing	32:2–4		
Keeping God's name	32:4–5		
Moral collapse	32:6, 25		
Intercession	32:11–14, 31–32		

INTERPRET

7. Did the people think they were abandoning the LORD? Which verse shows your answer?

8. Read **Exodus 34:5–7**. The people made an image of God. How did God answer?

9. Compare **Exodus 32:4** with **1 Kings 12:28**. What do you notice about Jeroboam's words?

APPLY

10. What makes God feel “delayed” in your life? What visible substitutes are you tempted to reach for?

MY NOTES ON SESSION 2



God's true image

OBSERVE

11. Read **Deuteronomy 4:12, 15–16**. What did Israel see at Sinai, and why?

12. Read **Isaiah 40:18, 25** and **Acts 17:29**. What question does God ask?

INTERPRET

13. Read **Genesis 1:26–27**, **Colossians 1:15**, and **John 14:9**. Where has God placed His image?

14. Read **2 Corinthians 3:18** and **Romans 8:29**. What is God doing with His image in believers?

15. Read **Exodus 20:5** and **Acts 10:25–26**. Does the commandment forbid only adoration, or bowing as well? Why does that matter?

16. Read **Ecclesiastes 9:5**, **1 Timothy 2:5**, and **Hebrews 7:25**. What do these verses teach about praying to saints?

APPLY

17. If you bear God's image, how should that change how you treat yourself and others this week (James 3:9)?

MY NOTES ON SESSION 3



The image in prophecy

OBSERVE

Read **Daniel 3:1–30** and **Revelation 13:11–17**, then fill in the chart.

QUESTION	DANIEL 3	REVELATION 13
What was set up?		
Who was commanded to worship?		
What was the penalty for refusing?		
Who refused?		See Revelation 14:12

INTERPRET

18. Read **Revelation 14:7, 9–12**. What does God call the world to do instead?

19. Read **Deuteronomy 4:2** and **Daniel 7:25**. Why does it matter whether the commandments are taught in full?

APPLY

20. Read **Daniel 3:16–18**. What gave the three Hebrews courage? How can you build that kind of faith now, before any test?

MY NOTES ON SESSION 4



Hard questions for discussion

- A.** Catholics say honor to an image passes to the person it represents. How would you answer that from **Exodus 32:4-5**?

- B.** Where is the line between a helpful teaching picture and an object of devotion?

- C.** The bronze serpent was made at God's command, yet later destroyed (**Numbers 21:8-9**; **2 Kings 18:4**). What does that teach about religious objects today?

- D.** How can we speak about these differences with Catholic friends and family kindly and truthfully (**Ephesians 4:15**)?

GROUP DISCUSSION NOTES

Stand tall!

Read the story of **Daniel 3** with your children, then play a simple game that celebrates who God is.

1. Tell or read the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in simple words. Read their brave answer in **Daniel 3:17–18** together.
2. Play **“Stand Tall for God.”** The children crouch down low. A parent calls out something true about God, like “God made the stars,” “God hears me when I pray,” or “God was with them in the fire.” The children jump up, stand tall, and shout, “Only God can do that!” Let the children take turns calling out their own.
3. Read **Daniel 3:25** together. Who was with them in the fire? Then color the page below.
4. Read **Exodus 20:4–5** in simple words: “We worship only God.”
5. Ask: “God can see us, hear us, and help us. How does that help us trust Him?” (**Psalm 115:3, 9**)
6. Pray for courage to stand for God like the three Hebrews.

Color me in! God was with them in the fire (Daniel 3:25).



WHAT MY FAMILY SAID

Picture this

People have always wanted a God they can see, hold, and control. The second commandment says God is bigger than anything we could make. It also tells us where His image really shows up. Work through this on your own or with a friend, then talk it over with a parent or mentor.

OBSERVE

Y1. Read **Exodus 20:4–6**. Put this commandment into one sentence you could text to a friend.

Y2. Read **Exodus 32:1–6**. The people got tired of waiting for Moses. What were they really looking for when they asked for a god they could see?

INTERPRET

Y3. Read **Deuteronomy 4:15–16** and **John 4:24**. Why do you think God showed Israel no shape at Sinai, only His voice?

Y4. Read **Colossians 1:15** and **John 14:9**. If you want to know what God is really like, where should you look?

- Y5.** Read **Daniel 3:16–18**. These young men were far from home and under huge pressure to go along with everyone else. What stands out about their answer?

APPLY

- Y6.** The golden calf was something people could see and control. What visible things do people your age look to for security or identity: likes, looks, grades, a group? What does **Matthew 6:21** say about that?

- Y7.** Read **Genesis 1:27** and **James 3:9**. Everyone you meet is made in God's image. How should that change the way you talk about people at school and online?

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Pick one and check it off when you're done.

- ☐ Memorize **John 4:24** and say it to someone at home.
- ☐ Spend ten minutes a day with God praying or reading the Bible.
- ☐ Say something kind to or about someone you usually overlook, because they bear God's image.
- ☐ Ask a parent or mentor: "What has helped you stand for God when it was hard?"

MY THOUGHTS / QUESTIONS I STILL HAVE



Answer key

SESSION 1

1. Heaven above, the earth beneath, and the water under the earth.
2. Bowing down to them and serving them.
3. Judgment: three or four generations of those who hate Him. Mercy: thousands, or a thousand generations, of those who love Him.
4. Each person bears their own guilt. The words “of them that hate me” limit the phrase to children who continue their parents’ sin.
5. The protective jealousy of a faithful spouse, not envy.
6. *Personal answer.*

SESSION 2

7. No. Aaron called it “a feast to the LORD” (32:5).
8. He wrote the commandments again and proclaimed His true character: merciful, gracious, longsuffering, good, and true.
9. Jeroboam used nearly the same words as Aaron, showing the calf worship had become official religion.
10. *Personal answer.*

SESSION 3

11. They saw no form, only heard His voice, so they wouldn’t make an image of Him.
12. “To whom then will ye liken God?” Nothing made by human hands can represent Him.
13. In humanity, created in His image, and fully in Jesus, the image of the invisible God.
14. Restoring it, changing believers into the image of Christ.
15. Bowing as well. Peter refused even respectful bowing, so veneration by bowing falls under the commandment.
16. The dead know nothing, and Jesus is the one mediator who intercedes for us, so praying to saints isn’t biblical.
17. *Personal answer.*

SESSION 4

18. Worship the Creator, and refuse to worship the beast and his image.
19. God forbids adding to or taking from His words, and prophecy warns of a power that would try to change God’s law.
20. Trust in God whether or not He delivered them. *Personal answer.*

YOUTH STUDY

- Y1. *Personal answer.*
- Y2. A god they could see and control, something to follow when God seemed far away and slow.
- Y3. They saw no form, only heard His voice, so they wouldn’t make an image of Him. God is Spirit, and no shape can capture Him.

- Y4.** At Jesus, the image of the invisible God. Whoever has seen Him has seen the Father.
- Y5.** They trusted God whether or not He rescued them. Their faith didn't depend on the outcome.
- Y6.** *Personal answer.* Where your treasure is, your heart will be too.
- Y7.** *Personal answer.*

WHAT I LEARNED / WHAT I'LL DO THIS WEEK

