

ELEMENTARY (4-7)

12. Ten ways to be perfect

Moses and the 10 commandments.

Memory Verse

"I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you."

Psalms 119:11 NIV

Story Time

Read 'Ten ways to be perfect' (pages 100-107 in the Jesus Storybook Bible) or watch the video on our website.

Understanding the Story

Talk this through with your kids:

Have you ever broken a rule? Or done something you needed to say sorry for? We all have! The terrible lie, sin, means we all do things that are hurtful and wrong. Things we need to say sorry to God for, and often, sorry to others too.

The 10 commandments are a list of rules. Things like; love God, love others and don't kill anyone. Maybe you think you're able to do all those. Even if you think you've kept all 10 commandments, Jesus told us in Matthew thinking an angry thought or a mean word can be the same as doing the action. If the rules include what we're thinking, then we're definitely all guilty! So why would God give a list of rules if He knew we'd find it impossible to keep them?

The rules point us to Jesus because they show us that we need a Rescuer. They show us we can't do it on our own. We need help - God's help.

Digging a little deeper:

By the time Jesus came, there were way more than 10 rules. There were more rules and more rules and even more rules to try and stop people from breaking the original 10. They had so many rules people had to follow, it felt impossible!

Jesus didn't come to earth to destroy the rules, but to fulfill them - to follow them perfectly. He did what we could never do. He also taught the importance of grace and loving one another.

But even when we try to live by grace and love others, we still make mistakes; so why even try? God wants us to try - not because we'll be perfect all the time, but because trying means we're focusing on God, trying to live a life that puts Him first. The rules don't save us - but they can help us grow. They also set us apart, so when people see we're living in a different way, it points them to Jesus too.

Questions to get you talking:

- Can you think of any rules you live by?
- Why do you think we have rules?
- Are all rules good?

Activities in your box

- **Rules, Rules and more Rules!** – You'll use the card game from your box. Instructions are with the game.

Activities using things around the house:

- Simon Says (Possible & Impossible)

Think of possible and impossible tasks. For example: touch your nose, or walk on the ceiling. Play Simon Says with the people in your household. Talk about the difference between having a task that is possible and impossible.