

Comprehension Workbook 4

Commandments

(10 commandments)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

CurriculumVisions

VisionMasters

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Commandments

(10 Commandments)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

understand • key words • summarise • sequencing • AF2-3 • AF4-5 • AF6-7 • discuss • create

Jewish faith

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with the study of world religions. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our Jewish Faith, Synagogue, Jewish art and writing and Jewish holy days books.)

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Unit 4: Commandments

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Stories of Goha the Wise Fool

Most people are familiar with the Ten Commandments. But Jews believe there are actually 613 commandments in the Bible. Some of these commandments are impossible to follow today, because they have to do with worshipping in the Temple in Jerusalem, which was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. But many of the other commandments are followed by Jews every day. The Hebrew word for commandment is mitzvah. Here are some of the commandments. They are not in order and are only numbered here to make it easier to answer the questions.

1. Know that God exists.
2. Believe that there is only one God.
3. Do not take the name of God in vain.
4. Love God.
5. Honour the old and the wise.
6. Learn the Jewish Bible and teach it.
7. Listen to people who teach about God.
8. Pray to God.
9. Say grace after meals.
10. Do not stand by when a human life is in danger.

11. Do not say bad things about other people.
12. Do not take revenge.
13. Do not hold a grudge.
14. Do not cause the simple-minded to stumble on the road.
15. Relieve a neighbour of his burden and help to unload his beast.
16. Do not leave an animal that has fallen down beneath its burden, unaided.
17. Do not harvest the entire field.
18. Give to charity what you can afford.
19. Love the stranger.
20. Do not cheat strangers when buying or selling.
21. Honour your father and mother.
22. Do not eat things that creep upon the earth.
23. Do not eat winged insects.
24. Do not eat or drink like a glutton or a drunkard.
25. Do not demand that a poor man repay his debt, if you know that he cannot pay.
26. Do not commit fraud when measuring.
27. Do not delay payment of a hired man's wages.
28. Pay all wages on time.
29. Do not break a promise.



Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word 'charity'.

b From that sentence, write what you think 'charity' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'charity'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'charity'.

e What is one type of 'charity'?



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: stumble	trip

3

Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

- 1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.**
- 2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.**
- 3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.**
- 4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?**

**There is
nothing wrong
with rewriting; even
the best authors
rewrite their
work.**

123
4

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the order you think they should be, starting with the most important first.

Give to charity what you can afford.

Do not leave an animal that has fallen down beneath its burden, unaided.

Honour the old and the wise.

Pay all wages on time.

Pay all wages on time.

Relieve a neighbour of his burden and help to unload his beast.



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



Write a sentence to answer each of these questions:

- (a) Give an example of a commandment that tells you to do something.
- (b) What do the commandments tell you to do when you find a mule that has fallen while loaded down with luggage?
- (c) How do the commandments tell you to treat your parents and the elderly?
- (d) What do the commandments tell you to do if you see that someone's life is in danger?
- (e) What two foods do these commandments tell you not to eat?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.

1 Which of the commandments here might have something to do with business?

2 Why is it important not to hold a grudge or take revenge?

3 Why do you think people are commanded not to harvest the entire field?

4 Which commandments tell people to help others?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.

1 Which commandments remind you of laws that we all have to follow?

2 What does the commandment "Do not cause the simple-minded to stumble on the road" mean? Do you think it only applies to simple-minded people who are walking on a road, or could it have other meanings?

3 Why is it a commandment not to cheat strangers?

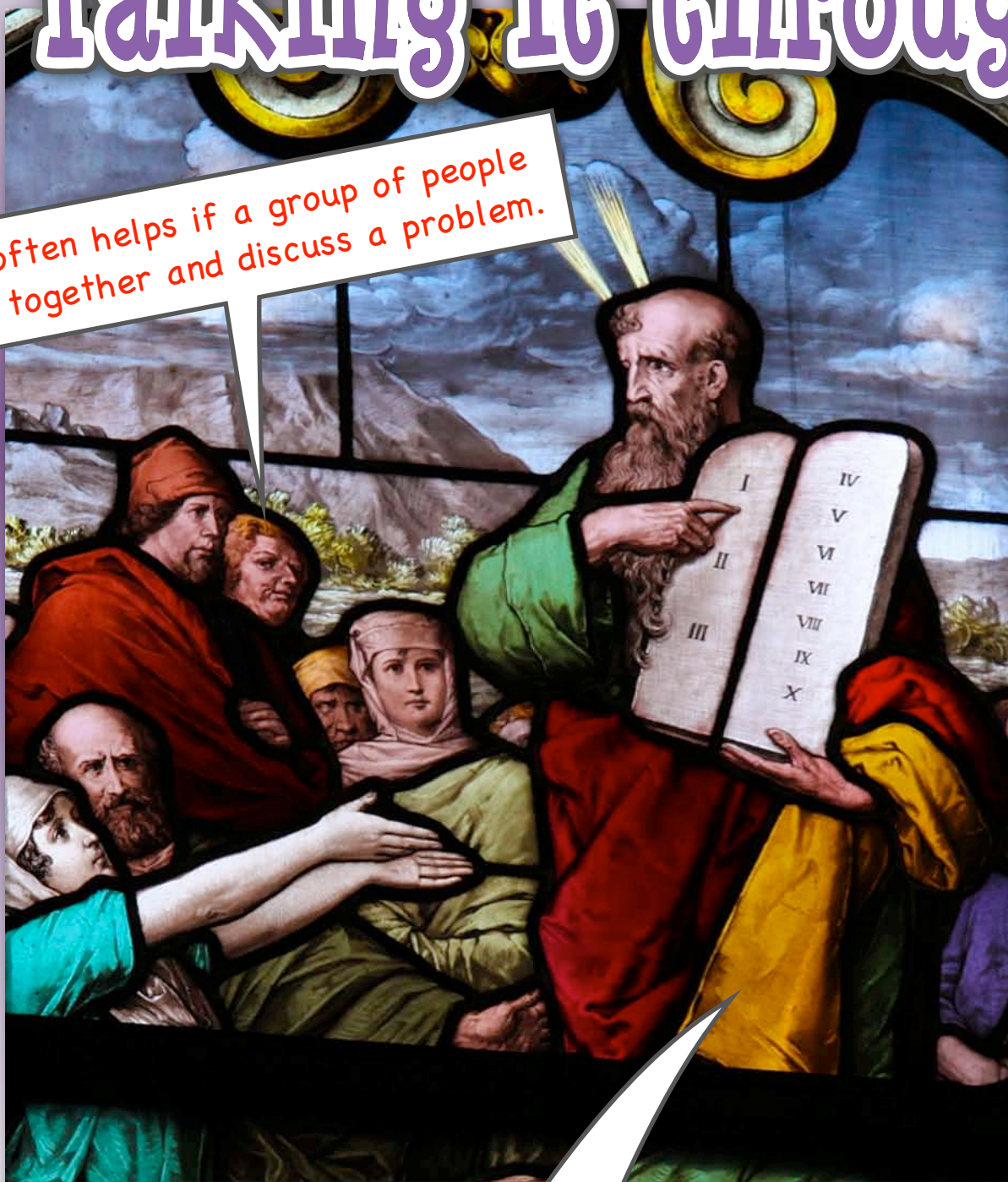
4 Which commandments are about worshipping God?

5 Can you think of some advice that might make a good commandment?



Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



Discussion topic: Commandments

Discuss how the commandments might make sense in everyday life. Do you think that some of the commandments here might apply to almost any religion or group of people? Which commandments are about treating people well, and which are about God?

Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



Make a Commandment

You are in charge of a city in colonial times. You have to make up a set of laws and rules for the people of the city to follow. The people of the city belong to many different religions, and you want to be fair. You do not want to force people to do anything that does not make sense.

(Now continue the story of describing what laws and rules you would make ...)

Commandments

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