

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year A – Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**  
*Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One*

**Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

**A Notation for this week’s Scripture:** Deuteronomy 30:15-20 can be difficult for the children to *hear and understand*. And, it is the “old law” which is not helpful to our understanding about having a loving, merciful relationship with God. However, remember that in a previous verse (vs. 11) we see that God thinks that to keep the commandment is *not too hard* for us. Therefore, it represents the interpretation that one can *make the choice* which will lead to a loving and healthy relationship with God. We are encouraged to practice that behavior with each other, mirroring our relationship with God. We can *choose* to have that relationship.

**Theme: Living in Covenant**

**Before:** You will need copies of the scripture for each child and pencils or pens. You will need a dictionary. You will need large sheets of paper (11x14 will do) markers, pens, pencils, paints, and any other art supplies you want to pull out for posters. If you have magazines, you may want to pull those out for them to cut things out for their posters.

**Beginning:** Ask the children if they know what a covenant is or where they might have heard of a covenant before. Talk about how a covenant is an agreement between God and the people.

**Opening Prayer:** God of Love, as we gather together today, help us to see how we can live in relationship with you and one another. Amen.

**The Story: Deuteronomy 30:15-30**

As you read the scripture for today, invite the children to circle words that stand out for them or things that they think are important.

Read it one more time and invite the children to underline the action words or phrases they hear.

If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you.....(vs.16)

**Questions**

- I wonder what stood out for you or what you thought was important. (Invite them to share what they circled.)
- I wonder what action words or phrases you heard in the lesson today.
- We heard about what God commands us to do. I wonder what would happen if we did not take the God’s commandments seriously.
- Have a child look up the definition of “covenant.”
- Have a child look up the word “commandment.”

- I wonder how a covenant is like a commandment.
- I wonder how we live in covenant with God today?
- I wonder what are God's rules for us today?
- How are we living by God's rules?

### **Activity**

#### **God's Commandments and Covenants Posters**

God has made many commandments (rules) for us to live by so that we can better live with God and with each other. These commandments are God's way of making an agreement with us about how we behave.

Let's brainstorm some of the commandments we can think of...

(Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-21); Love God, neighbor, and self (Matthew 22:37-40); the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12); etc.)

Invite them to create posters for the covenants of God that will stay in the room. Invite them to make them like advertisements or signs they would see as they walk around town. The children can work individually or in teams to create the posters. If you have magazines they can cut pictures out of them to help create their posters.

**Getting Closure:** Invite the children to share what they have created.

**Closing Prayer:** Dear God, you are the God of the commandments *and* love. Thank you for teaching me your way that is merciful and kind. Amen.

## **This Week's Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-30**

Moses said to all Israel the words which the Lord commanded him, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

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