

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year A – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Lesson Plans for Younger 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 light colored paper for tracing their feet, scissors, glue sticks, darker paper, and crayons or markers.

**Beginning:** Open your time together with singing. Choose one to use each session of this unit. It could give structure to sing the same song before the story as a cue to the children it is circle time. Suggested songs:

- This Little Light of Mine
- He’s Got The Whole World in His Hands
- The Hymnal 1982, #490 - I want to walk as child of the light
- Wonder Love and Praise, #787 – We are marching in the light of God

**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**

Moses came before the prophets. He loved God and wanted the people to be close to God. God wanted the people to have the best life they could have so the Lord gave Moses the Ten Commandments, ten rules to live a good life in harmony with God and others.

Moses wanted to make sure the people of God knew how to make good choices before they entered the Promised Land. So he sat them down and told them these words from God: (Deut. 30:19-20)

“I call on 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 the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

The past few times we have been talking about opposites. What is the opposite of darkness? What is the opposite of kindness? (Give children time to wrestle with that concept.) How do you think God wants us to treat others? (Allow time to talk.) What happens when we are nice to our friends? What is the opposite of curses? Do you think God wants us to be blessed? How so?

We can make choices that are good for us. What happens when we eat healthy food that is good for us? What is the opposite of death? How do you think making good choices help us to live longer? (Give plenty of time to answer, but move on when they wonder off topic.)

## **Activities**

### **Following God**

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. This is one of the ways God helps us to follow the right path.

What are 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.)

Trace each child's foot onto a piece of paper and have them cut them out and glue them onto a different color paper. Have them draw/color on their foot the ways to follow God.

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

**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.

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