

The Ten Commandments (10 week unit)

This is a sample lesson plan. There are, of course, lots of different ways to teach the littlest ones. This is offered to help those who may be willing to teach them but are unfamiliar young children today.

Go over the lesson plan with the children at the beginning of your session. Using a “rebus” lesson plan, pre-readers can tell what to expect during Sunday School. If they get out of their seats or do something out of sequence, point them to the lesson plan. This helps them to “self-regulate” rather than have the teacher always trying to do it.

1. A review of basic lessons is a good idea when the children are fresh. Today we will review the prayers for the little children and for the bigger children. They both begin by addressing God. What other names for Him are in the prayers? They both include the ideas of “guarding” and “guiding.” Which parts do that? Today we will work on understanding the 10 Commandments. They are not rules to keep us from having fun. They are guarding and guiding rules. They are rules like “Don’t play in the street.” “Don’t touch a hot stove.” (Directions are included for an optional “Snake Pit!”)

2. Teach the children to write the letters in a variety of media. Show them how to make the words “no” and “not.” Help everyone find **Exodus 20** in the **Bible** and look for the “no” and “not” words

3. Use the cards and the hand gestures to help the children memorize the commandments

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. One finger stands for one God.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... Hand stop sign.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. Finger to the lips for silence.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Hands like you are holding a hymnal.

Honor thy father and thy mother. Arms like a hug.

Thou shalt not kill. Hands like you are holding and protecting a baby bird.

Thou shalt not commit adultery. Ring finger reminder to keep our promises.

Thou shalt not steal. Giving hands.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. Shake hands with your neighbor.

Thou shalt not covet. We keep our hands to ourselves.

10 Commandments (cont)

4. Each week tell a different story that relates to a commandment while the students color a picture from that story. Some story suggestions are as follows;

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Elijah and the still small voice. At first, what seemed like the most powerful thing in the story? Was Elijah afraid? Are we sometimes afraid of something that seems really big, really loud, really dangerous? What did Elijah learn? How can we listen for that still, small voice? How is thinking that there is something stronger than God, breaking the first commandment?

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... Daniel in the lion's den. Is worshipping a person breaking this commandment? What are some things (or people) that we might be tempted to worship? Did obeying this commandment guard and guide Daniel?

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The prophets of Baal thought that they could call "All-Power" by the name of "Baal." When they called for power that way, they didn't get any answer. Do you wish you could have been there to see what happened when Elijah called on the name of the true God?

Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. Jesus heals on the sabbath. These verses have some interesting ideas about what is holy. How can you keep the sabbath holy? Does this mean that we only keep one day a week holy?

Honor thy father and thy mother. Ruth and Naomi. Naomi wasn't Ruth's "real" mother. What makes someone be like a "mother" or a "father?" Can we honor those qualities in ourselves as well as in someone else?

Thou shalt not kill. David spares Saul. Could David have killed Saul? What do you think would have happened if he did? Why didn't David do it?

Thou shalt not commit adultery. Hebrew boys in the fiery furnace. To adulterate means to make impure. In the other story about these boys they refused to eat "impure" food. They were thrown in the fiery furnace because they refused "impure" worship. How were they guarded and guided?

Thou shalt not steal. Jacob and Esau. What did Jacob steal by trickery? How was he later tricked himself? Can you steal something that isn't a thing?

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. Jonah and the whale. God sent Jonah to save the people of Nineveh. Jonah did not think that they were worth saving so he tried to run away from God. Can you run away from God? How can you "witness" or see others as God sees them? Was God right about the people of Nineveh?

Thou shalt not covet. Parable of the rich man and his barns. What was the man going to do with all that stuff? Why didn't he want to share with anyone? Was he afraid that good could only come from his barns, not from God?

1. 

Review prayers for little and Big Children



sitting
in
chairs

2. "N" "O" "T"

Learn to write letters with pencil and chalk



sitting
in
chairs

3. 10 Commandments

Recite using cards and hand gestures



sitting
in
chairs

4.



Listen to Bible story
illustrating a commandment



while
coloring
page



sitting
in
chairs

5.



Sing along to a
tape or cd

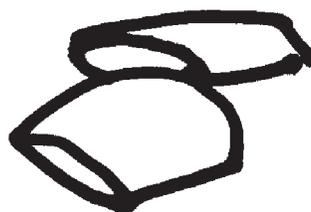


standing

6.



Read together a student
choice Bible story



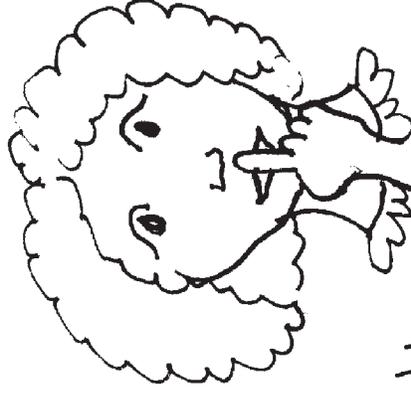
sitting on pillows

1



Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

3



Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

2



Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image,...

4



Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

7

Thou shalt
not commit adultery.



5

Honor thy
father and thy mother.



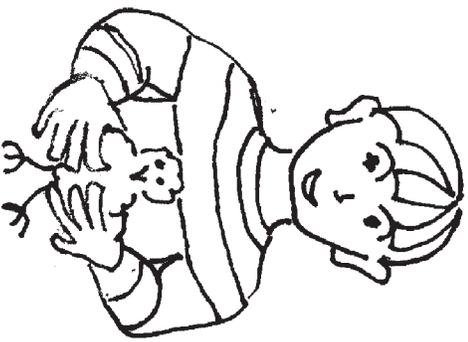
8

Thou shalt not steal.



6

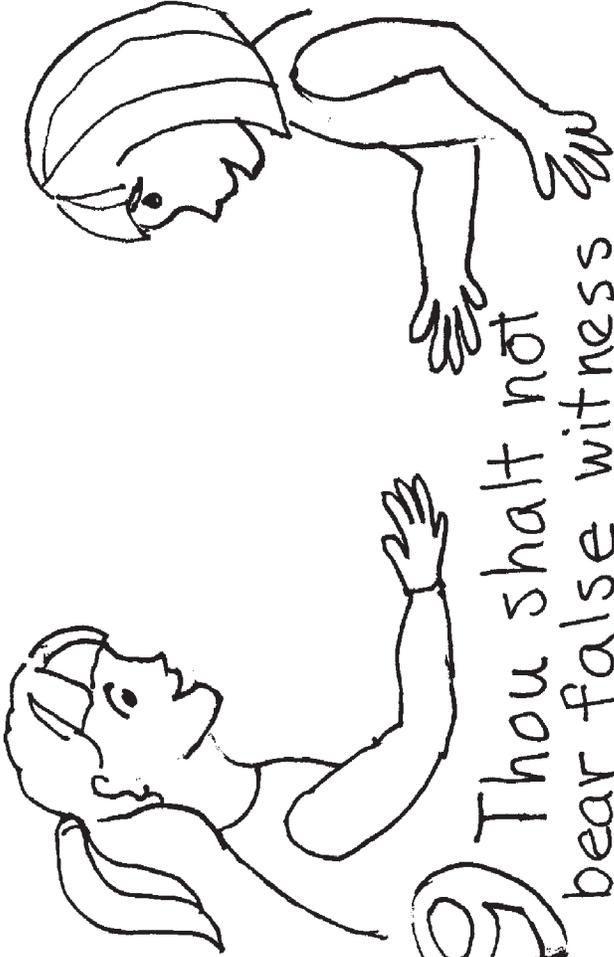
Thou shalt not kill.



10

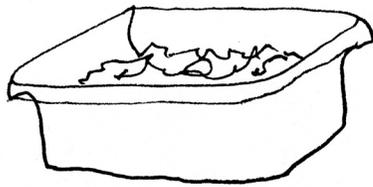


Thou shalt not covet.



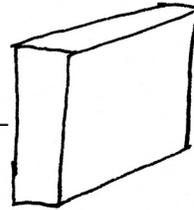
9 Thou shalt not
bear false witness
against thy neighbor.

Ten Commandments



a plastic dish pan with about 2 inches of shredded paper (to be snakes as in the lying suggestions)

4 blocks of wood about 2 inches high labeled with the first four commandments--how we relate to God.

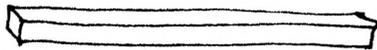


One piece of wood about six inches square labeled with the fifth commandment.



Thread spools for everyone.

Five sticks about six inches long labeled with the last five commandments.



At first, everyone can get lost in the snake pit. "Help me, help me"
Next we build a platform that rests on the four commandments about God.
As our spools climb onto the platform, we protect ourselves by making a fence with the last five commandments so no one can fall off into the snake pit. BUT, if we break one of the commandments, especially one about God, the whole platform tips us back into the snake pit. God does not punish us for breaking a commandment. The commandments exist to make us safe from the snake pit.



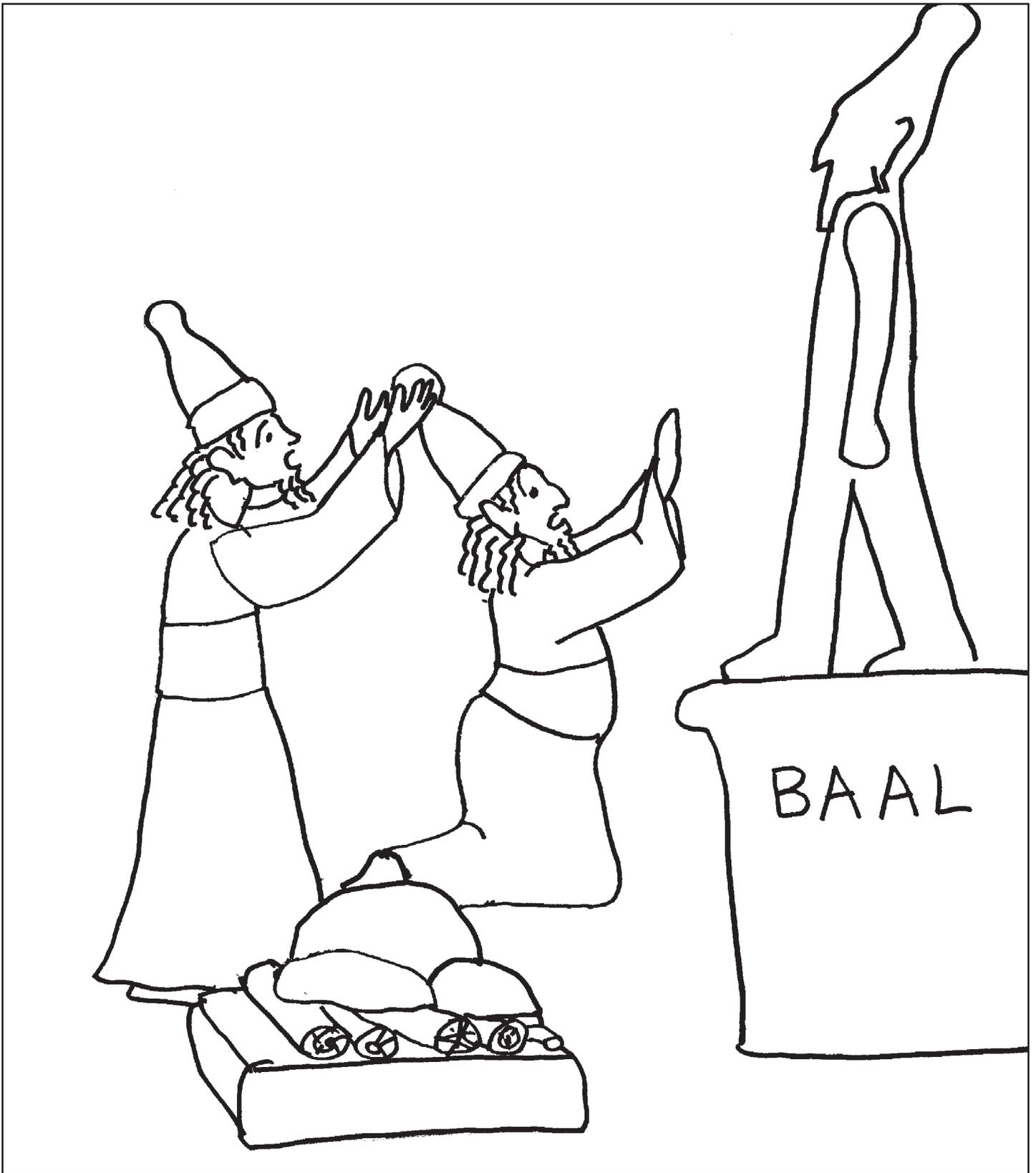
Coloring page for the story of Elijah and the “still, small voice.” (I Kings 19: 9-12)

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

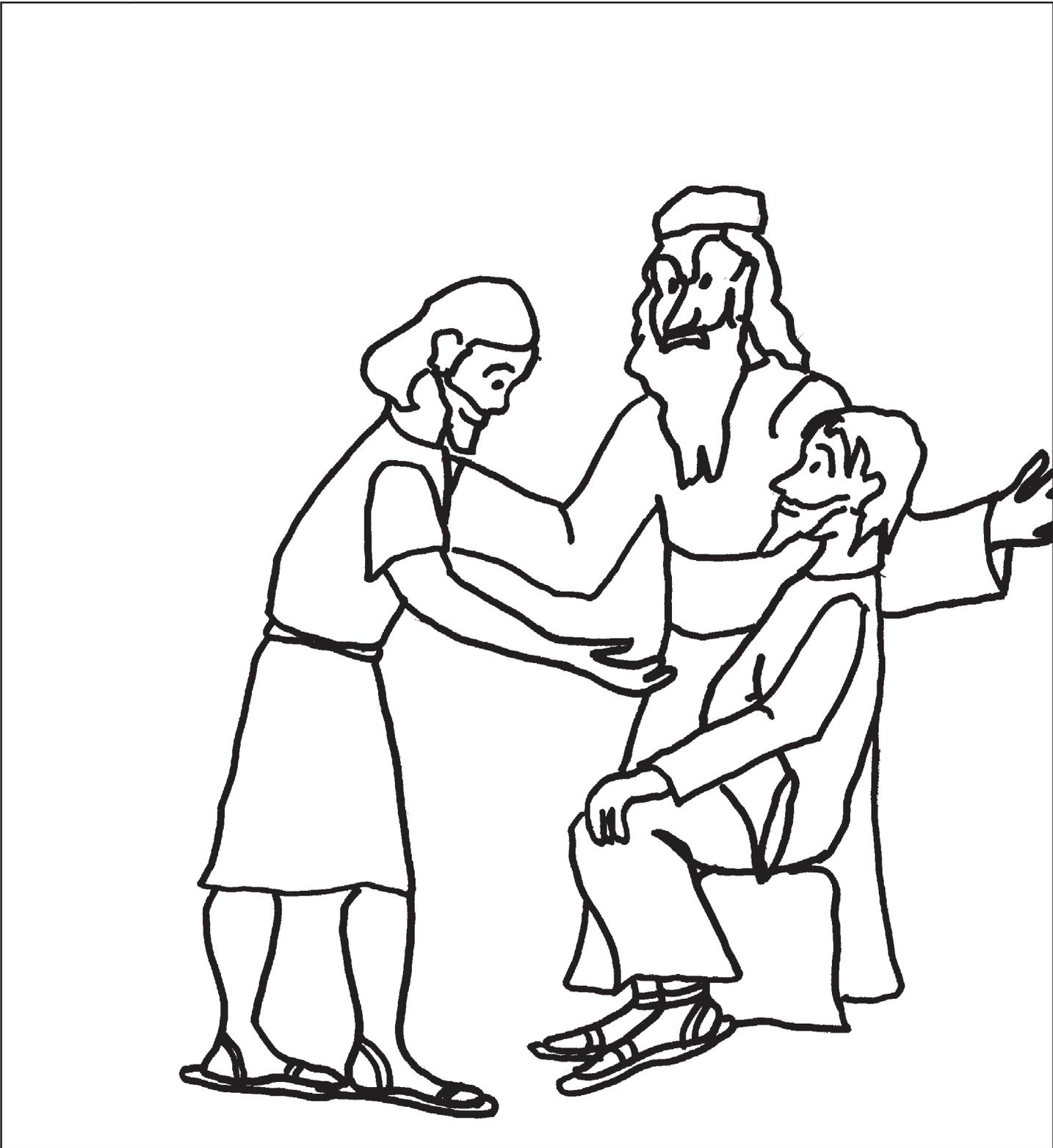
Have students write in God’s name that He gave to Moses. I am



Coloring page for the story of Daniel in the lion's den. (Daniel 6: 1-23)
"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image..."



Coloring page for the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. (I Kings 18: 21-39)
"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."



Coloring page for the story of Jesus healing the man with the withered hand on the sabbath day. (Mark 2: 23-27, 3: 1-5 or Matthew 12: 1-14 or Luke 6: 1-11)

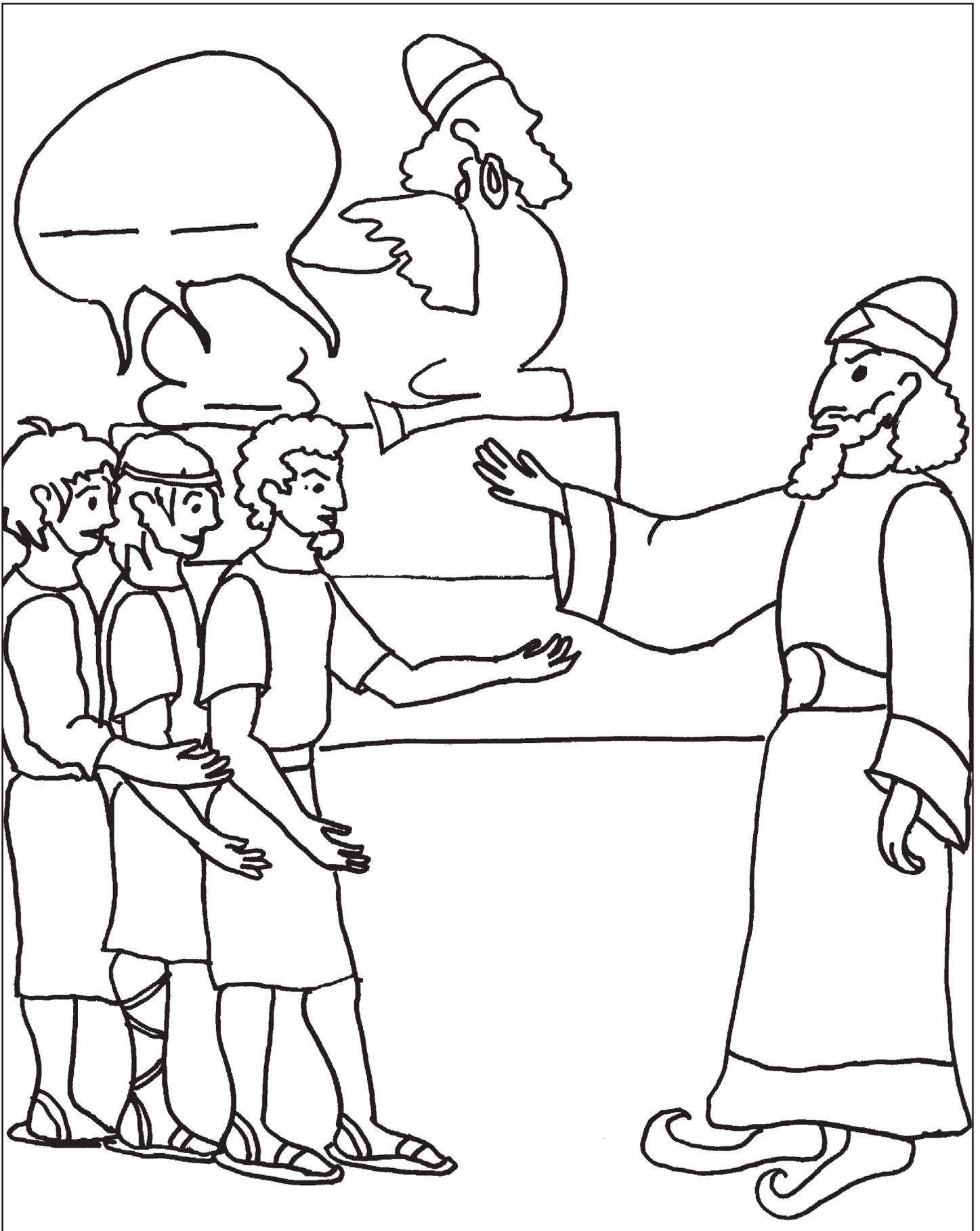
“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.”



Coloring page for the story of Ruth and Naomi. (Ruth)
"Honor thy father and thy mother."



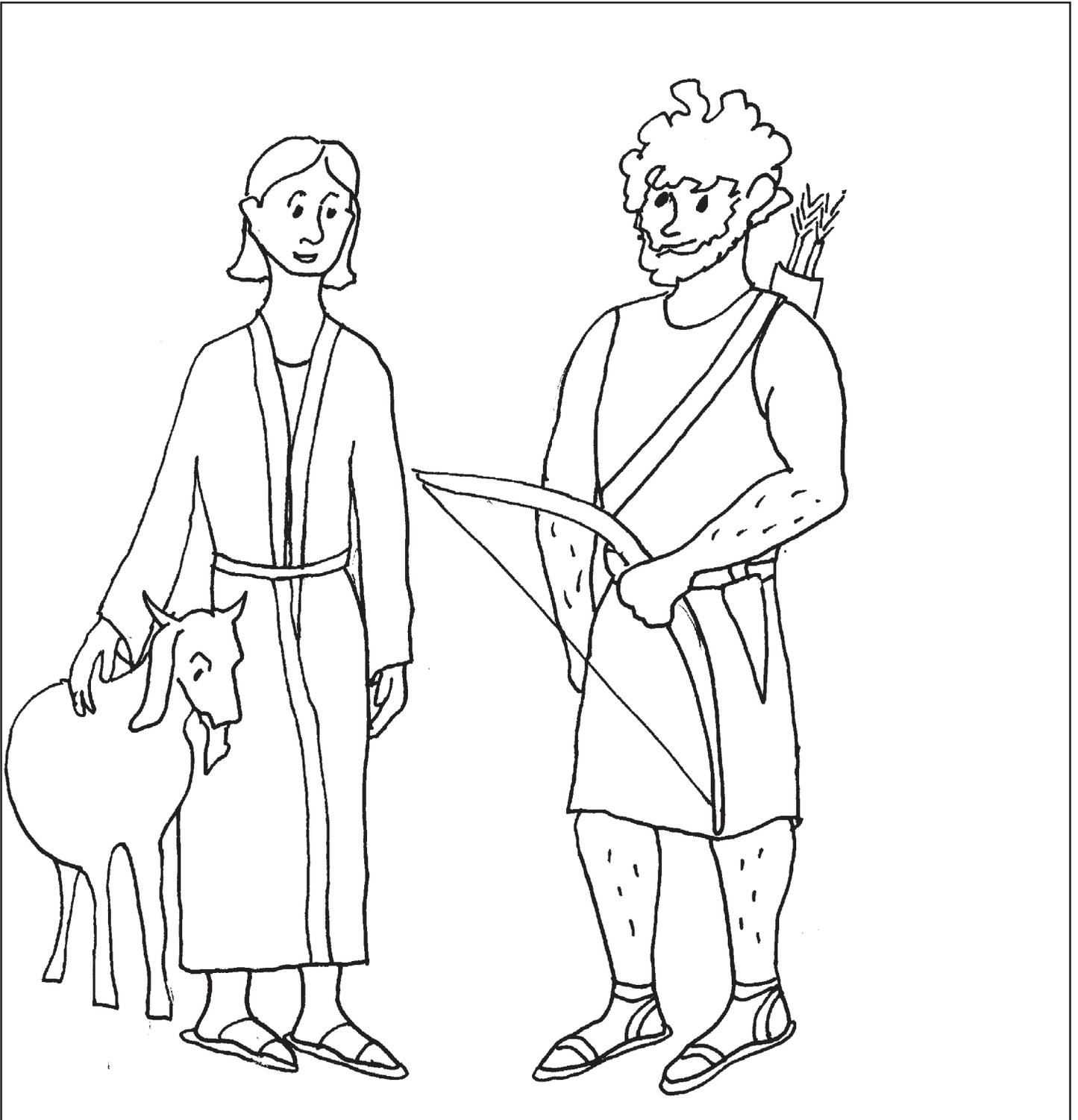
Coloring page for the story of David sparing Saul. (I Samuel 24)
"Thou shalt not kill."



Coloring page for the story of the Hewbrew boys in the fiery furnace. (Daniel 3)

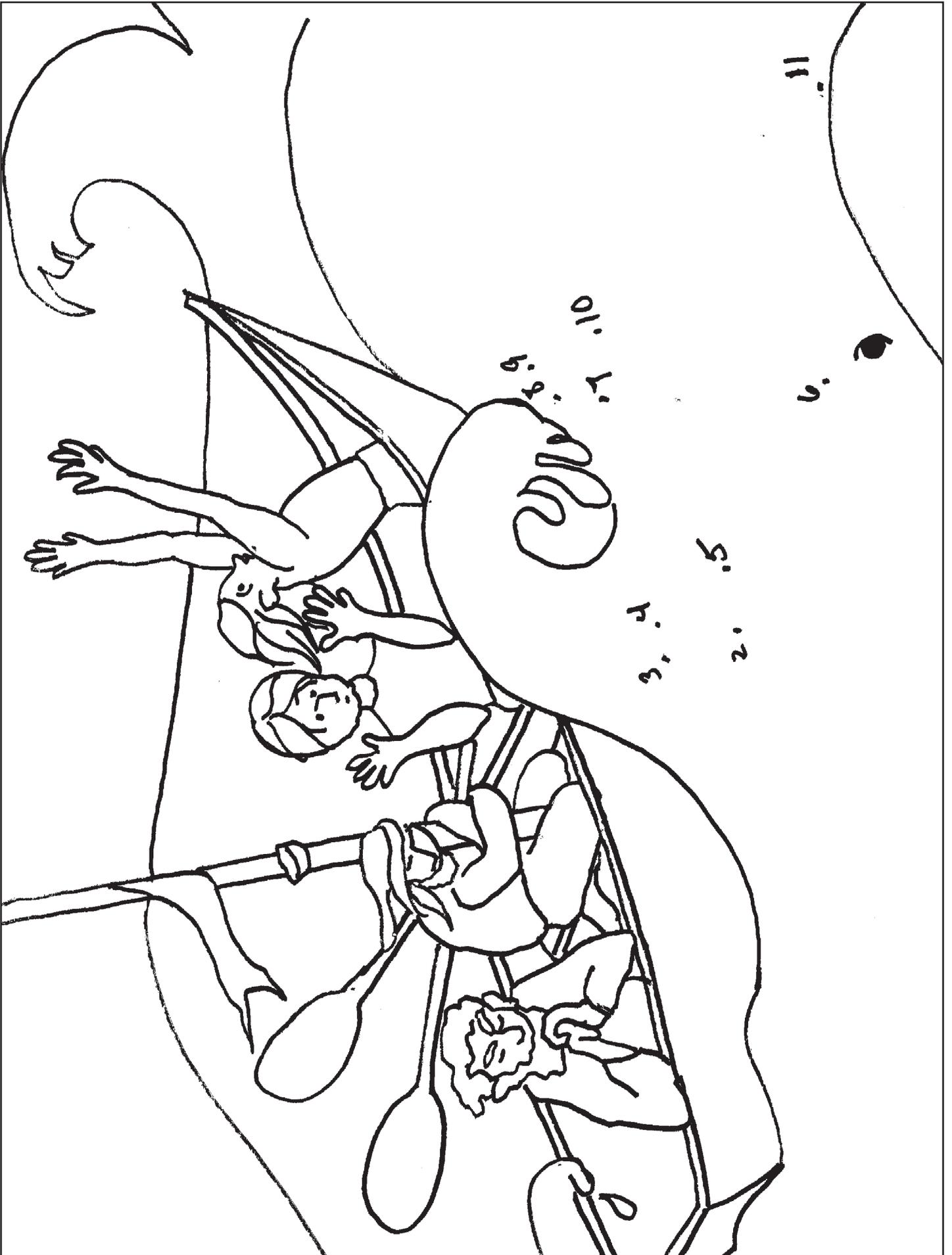
“Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

Have students write in the boys response to the command to worship false gods. (no)



Coloring page for the story of Jacob and Esau. (Genesis 27: 1-30, 41-44; 29: 1, 10-30)
"Thou shalt not steal."

Coloring page for the story of Jonah and the whale. (Jonah)
"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."



“ Thou shalt not covet.”

