



### Rules for living

- *What rules do I follow?*
- *How can religious codes of conduct affect everyday lives?*
- *How do Jewish rules of living affect everyday Jewish lives?*

#### **Lesson ideas**

- Discuss with pupils why we need rules for example, The Highway Code or football rules.
- Discuss the difference between state/home/school rules. Who makes the rules? What are the consequences of breaking the rules?
- Look through (selected!) newspapers for evidence of people breaking the rules today.
- Make a newspaper collage with headlines.

Jews and Christians believe that God gave people rules to live by, to help them live safe and happy lives. They believe that God created people to be his friends and to live in a way that pleases him. The rules he has given are designed to help us do that.

The book of Exodus (Chapter 20) records how Moses was given the 10 Commandments by God. These rules for living were unique and set the Jews apart from other tribes. The rules concerned the worship of God and rules about daily living. Being a Christian country, the British legal system was founded on these principles (marriage laws, not stealing, not murdering etc.).

In plain English, the rules are as follows (N.B. great sensitivity will be needed when discussing the 7th commandment with the class):-

1. Worship only One God
2. Do not worship any idols
3. Keep God's name very special
4. Keep one day a week holy
5. Respect your parents
6. Do not murder
7. Do not take another person's husband/wife
8. Do not steal
9. Do not tell lies
10. Do not want what other people have

- Ask pupils to watch a video clip of 'Moses' Testament video or 'Who is this Jesus?' video part 1 or read a Children's Bible to gain understanding of where/when/to whom the rules were given.
- What rules are mentioned here? Are any of them part of our country's laws today?
- Click [here](#) to download an easy to remember way of drawing the Ten Commandments. (Practice drawing number 4 as a deck chair first!)

- Discuss the appropriateness of the 10 commandments for our society in the 21st century. Have things changed? Which are the hardest rules to keep? This may lead on to discussion about the power of advertising and materialism.
- Imagine you are stranded on a desert island with plenty of food, water and safe habitats. Write a list of 10 rules for a happy and peaceful life. Together compare any similarities.
- Think about 'If I ruled the world what would my most important rule be?'

**'The Golden Rule'** Luke Chapter 10 v 25-37

- Explain that someone once asked Jesus which were the two most important rules (as Jewish rules had multiplied and by the time of Jesus they even had rules for keeping rules). Jesus said we need to follow only two important rules- 'Love God' and 'Love your neighbour'. Christian belief is that by following these two rules, all the other commandments will be kept – i.e. if you really care for other people you wouldn't steal from them or murder or take their husband/wife etc.

Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan.

- Ask the pupils to act out a modern day version of the parable. What reasons might someone have for NOT stopping to help a victim of a mugging today?
- Point out that these reasons shouldn't stop anyone from going to fetch help.
- See our assembly on Forgiveness and Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year for a lesson idea on learning from our mistakes.