

I'm Just a Law

Setting the Stage:

This sketch is designed to be a vignette similar to those presented in the educational program School House Rock. It is designed to use social studies as an entry point for sharing lessons of faith.

Take a moment to scan through a video recording of an old School House Rock program as you prepare to recruit children, youth and adults to portray the characters in this skit. The videotapes are available through local video vendors

Cast:

Child

Mr. or Ms. Law

** Assemble a sandwich-board costume using two sheets of gray or white poster board/foam board and ribbon or heavy yarn. Trace or copy the "I'm Just a Law" face pattern onto the gray or white paper or a full-sheet label. Glue or affix the face design to the front of the sandwich board.

Script:

(Mr. or Ms. Law is standing or a sitting in the center of the stage as the scene opens.)

Child: (Walks on stage) Hey, what's this rock doing on the steps of the state capitol

Law: I'm not a rock. I'm a law!

Child: A Law?

Law: A Law. A rule. A precept. A statute. An ordinance.

Child: All right, already. I get it. How did you come to be? Who were you written by the lawmakers in the capitol building?

Law: Nope. I'm a special Law. I'm one of the Ten Commandments.

Child: The Ten Commandments?

Law: The Ten Commandments. The "Ten Words." The Decalogue. The "You shalls and shall nots."

Child: All right, already. Then who are you all were you written by?

Law: We were created by God and given to Moses and God's people to give them some guidelines for living together in community.

Child: Great idea! But, you still haven't told me who wrote you?

Law: Well, technically we're in Moses' handwriting, but God told him what to write. A lot of people had a hard time trying to figure out what to do with us. So, in 1529, Martin Luther put us in a book called Luther's Small Catechism and he included some ideas about what were supposed to mean.

Child: So, what are the Ten Commandments and what are they supposed to mean?

Law: Well...The first three commandments are about fearing and loving God. One: You should have no other gods than the LORD God. Two: Don't misuse God's name. Three: Remember the Sabbath Day, and keep it holy. (Silence)

Child: So what about the other seven?

Law: Oh yes, the other seven are about fearing and loving God, so that we live with one another in love.

Child: So what's number four?

Law: That's me! Honor your parents.

Child: And five?

Law: Don't murder.

Child: Six?

Law: You shall not commit adultery.

Child: Seven!

Law: You shall not steal.
Child: Eight!
Law: You should not bear false witness against your neighbor.
Child: Nine!
Law: You shall not covet your neighbor's house. And...Drum roll please....
Child: Ten!
Law: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife or male or female slave or ox or donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.
Child: (Counting on fingers) All right! No other gods, don't misuse God's name, remember the Sabbath... That's no so bad, I can remember ten little laws.
Law: Oh but that's not all, there are over 600 laws in the Old Testament!
Child: Six hundred? How can anyone keep track of 600 laws?
Law: It's easier than it sounds. You can sum up all the laws in two simple commands. The first is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
Child: And the second?
Law: Love your neighbor as yourself.
Child: Those sure are good words to live by! You should try to get the word out!
Law: What do you think I'm doing here?!
Child: (Gestures a "thumbs up") I get it!