

# Mustard Seed Series

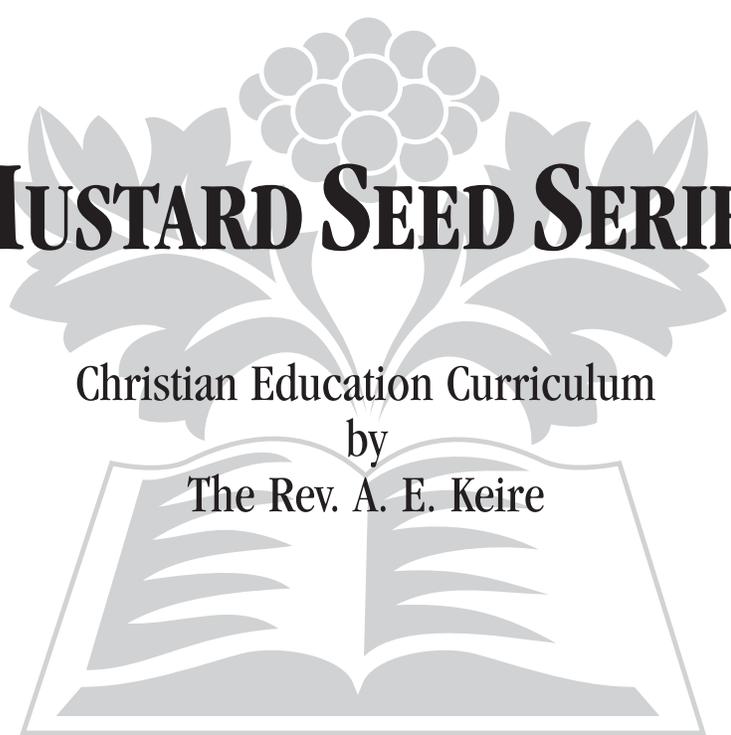
CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION



## Junior 1



**Junior 1**  
**Teacher Book**



# **MUSTARD SEED SERIES**

Christian Education Curriculum

by

The Rev. A. E. Keire

Curriculum Development  
Associates, Inc.

[www.mustardseedseries.com](http://www.mustardseedseries.com)

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**The Mustard Seed Series by  
by Rev. A. E. Keire  
ISBN: 9780998087733  
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**2017 Edition**

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Hans Sass Von Kulmbach  
*Peter and Paul Being Led to Prison in Rome*  
1859



# JUNIOR 1

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## O L D T E S T A M E N T

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## FOCUS

- Commandment Ten
- Covetousness



## ATTENDANCE AND SHARING



## REVIEW

- I have stated that the first four commandments concern our relationship with God. The last six commandments concern our relationship with each other and how we live together as a community.
  - The Ten Commandments provide a skeletal framework for right living. Each generation needs to consider these commandments and how they apply to their lives today and their accountability to God.
  - Why do you think God gave us the commandment against adultery? (God wants to preserve the sacredness of marriage and children born in a marriage.)
  - How is adultery encouraged in today's movies and advertising?
    - They promote free love and acting on impulse. Such actions strike a deadly blow to families and to commitments people make.
    - If people cannot be faithful in their commitments, then society will disintegrate.
  - Why does God give us a commandment against stealing? (Personal property should be safe against theft. Otherwise everyone would be stealing from each other.)
  - What other types of stealing can people do?
- People can rob you of your peace of mind.
  - Employers can pay insufficient money for work done.
  - Workers do not do the jobs for which they are paid.
  - People can cheat on tests, etc.
- Why is it important not to accuse people falsely? (You destroy their reputations and their ability to make a living, which in turn may destroy their families.)
  - Who can say the Ten Commandments? Do you and the others want to say them together?



## CLASS PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S LESSON

- Most of us do not want things unless someone suggests their availability and encourages us to get them. All we have to do is go out and get them. Do you agree?
  - For instance, designer jeans came into fashion about 15 years ago. Now, no one wants to wear ordinary jeans.
- Try to think of some circumstances when the law says we cannot have what we want such as beer, cigarettes, etc. What do some people do to get these things?



## TODAY'S LESSON AND DISCUSSION POSSIBILITIES

- \_\_\_\_\_, will you read Exodus 20:17?
  - What is God saying we cannot have?

EXODUS 20:17; LUKE 12:13-21

## Covetousness

“

*Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because a person's true life is not made up of the things he owns, no matter how rich he may be.*

”

LUKE 12:15

## MATERIALS

- Bibles
- Student Books
- Copies of words and music to *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*
- Activity Supplies

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- Has there ever been anything that you wanted so badly that you would do almost anything to get it? Did you act differently because of your desire?
  - When you got what you desired, did it satisfy you and meet your expectations? For how long were you satisfied?
  - How did you feel when you did not get what you wanted? Did it distort or make your ordinary behavior different?
  - The tenth commandment concerns an offense against the heart and mind. People who covet or desire another person's property actively pursue that person's possessions. This behavior may not be observable except by God, who knows what is in our hearts.
  - Last year you learned the meaning of The Lord's Prayer. In it is the petition that we are not to ask God for anything more than our daily needs. Most people have forgotten or do not want to know what this petition means. People today seek more and more possessions, food, gadgets, cars, sports equipment, CDs, computer games, etc.
  - The Lord's Prayer and this tenth commandment instruct us to seek only that which is beneficial and wholesome for everyone. We are not to seek more than our basic needs.
  - To accumulate many possessions means that we are placing our trust in things rather than in God.
- Let us read the parable of the Rich Fool in Luke 12:13-21. \_\_\_\_\_, will you read this parable?
- Do you agree with Jesus' statement in verse 15 that a person's true life is not made up of the things he owns, no matter how rich he is? Why or why not?
  - What is the point of this parable?
    - The rich fool worried about things and not his soul.
    - He forgot God and eternity.
    - Nor did he think about other people and their needs.
    - He should have used his surplus to help the needy.
  - What is more important to you and your friends—things or one's soul? Why?
  - What harm can desiring the possessions of other people cause you?
- The last six commandments are the following:
- Observe the Sabbath.
  - Respect your parents.
  - Do not commit adultery.
  - Do not steal.
  - Do not accuse anyone falsely.
  - Do not desire another person's possessions and family.
- Can you understand how the last six commandments are good rules for regulating society?
- What would our lives be like if nobody followed the rules or obeyed the laws of the land?
- What would happen to the flow of traffic if people traveled as fast as they wanted on whatever side of the road they wished?
  - What would happen to you and your family if your parents worked and were not paid by their employers because their employers kept the money owed your parents?
  - What would happen in school if all the students and teachers did exactly what they wanted to do? Would any learning occur?
  - (Develop examples from other situations that relate to their lives, such as sports.)



### STUDENT BOOKS

- Take from your Student's Book the pictures of *Avarice* and *The Large Fishes Devouring the Small Fishes* on pages 23–24. Pieter Bruegel lived over 500 years ago. People did not behave much differently then from the way they do today. The one constant in life is that our attitudes, motivations, and sins have not changed much. Pieter Bruegel drew weird pictures illustrating behavior that is caused by inner attitudes and motivations.
- Does anyone know what avarice means? *Avarice* is another word for greed. How does Bruegel's picture *Avarice* show people's greed?
- Why do you suppose many of the people are portrayed as subhuman?
  - Has greed made them subhuman?
  - How does this picture illustrate the tenth commandment?

- What is happening in *The Large Fishes Devouring the Small Fishes*?
- How does the quotation from Luke help explain the meaning and purpose of life? Why does God not want us to spend all our time accumulating and hoarding things?
- Look at Bruegel's *The Battle of the Moneybags and Strongboxes*.
  - Those who collect money in bags or contain it in trunks often have no human head—so completely possessed are people by their money.
  - Had people exchanged their humanity for money?
  - What is the artist trying to tell us?
  - What is Jesus trying to tell us in the parable of the rich man and the quotation on this page?



### ACTIVITY

- Finish your scrapbook. Add to it illustrations that demonstrate those who obey the tenth commandment and those who do not obey it.
- Divide your class into two, three, or four teams depending on the number in attendance.
- Have each team draw from a hat a commandment, which they are to act out without dialogue.
- Each team is to pantomime its commandment and the other students are to guess which one it is.
- Repeat until all ten commandments have been acted out.



### CONCLUSION

- Let us form a prayer circle.
- In Luke 12:32-34, Jesus encourages his people to sell what they have and give the money to the poor. He says it is better to have riches in heaven where no thief can reach them and no moths can destroy them. And then Jesus makes the statement, “For your heart will always be where your riches are.” That means Jesus is asking us to make a choice as to which treasure we prefer—earthly or heavenly treasures.
- Let us pray.

**Jesus, we love you and want to be your disciples, but we do not understand how we will make it in life if we do not keep some treasures for ourselves. Perhaps our problem is lack of faith in you and what you think is best for us. Help us to understand the wisdom of your thinking and then to embrace it in your name and as members of your church. Let us not be corrupted, changed, and consumed by greed until we become a subhuman species. Help us to count our blessings in you and as a child of God. Amen.**

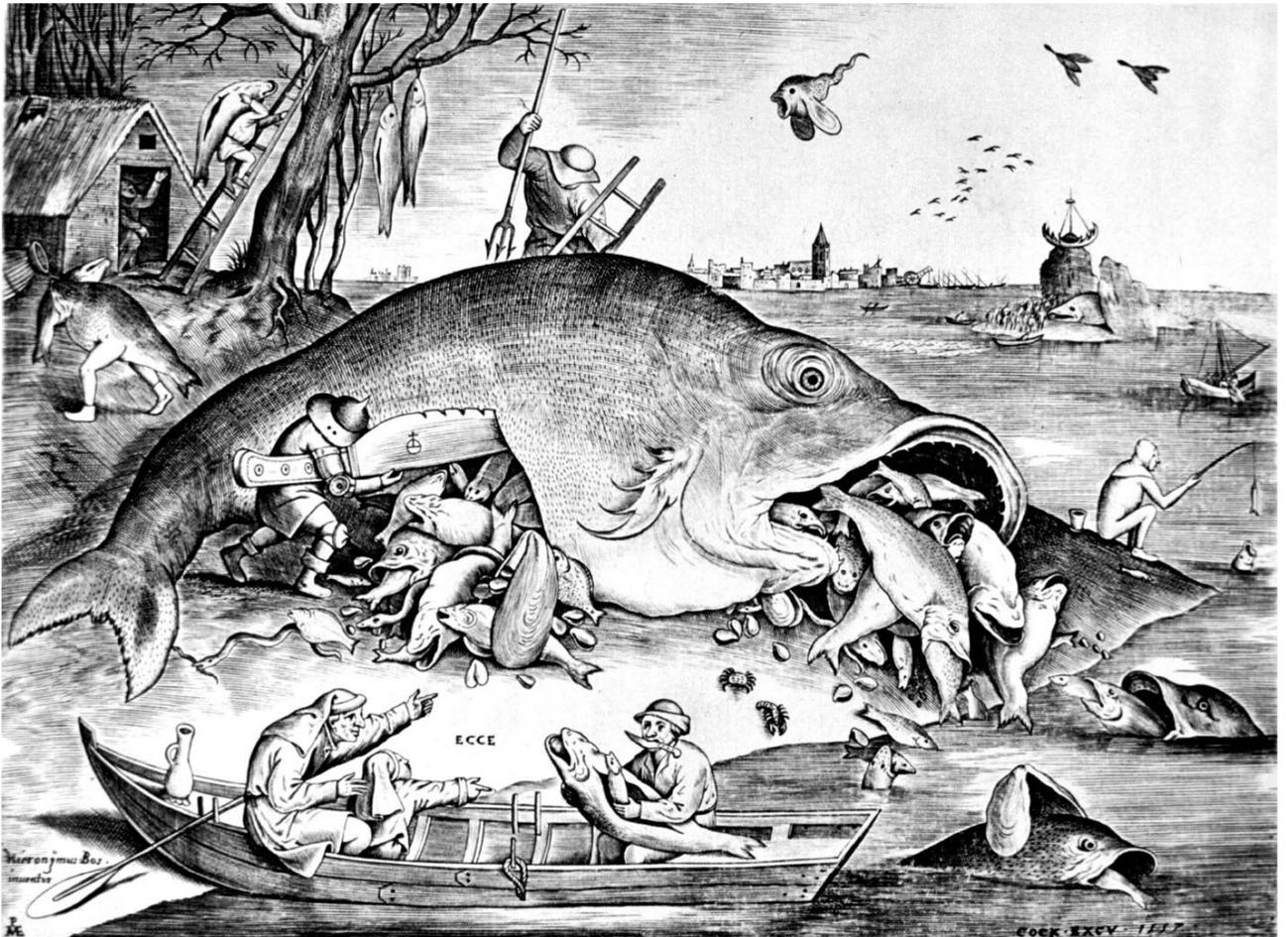
**And now, as our Savior Jesus taught us, we humbly pray, Our Father. . . .**

- Let us sing *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*.

End of Teacher Book Preview.

Student Book Preview Follows.

# The Tenth Commandment



Pieter Bruegel, *The Large Fishes Devouring the Small Fishes*

“Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because a person’s true life is not made up of the things he owns, no matter how rich he may be.”

*Luke 12:15*

*A Note Home:*

*Today your child finished learning about the Ten Commandments and the last commandment not to covet other people’s possessions. The parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21) was also compared to the tenth commandment.*



Pieter Bruegel, *Avarice*

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night you will have to give up your life; then who will get all these things you have kept for yourself?’”

*Luke 12:20*



Pieter Bruegel, *The Battle of the Moneybags and Strongboxes*