

# kumulani keiki news

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The Preschool at Kapalua

## How to Delight in God's Loving Laws

### POWERSOURCE

#### ASK JESUS:

1. To give you hearts willing to obey God and his commands.
2. To show your family that obedience brings blessings, not burdens.
3. To help you lovingly obey other authority figures.

The words “love” and “law” are rarely used in the same sentence these days. Yet the Old Testament psalmists express great delight in God’s commands: “Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long” (Psalm 119:97) and “See how I love your commandments, Lord. Give back my life because of your unfailing love” (verse 159).

In the New Testament, Jesus also connects the concepts of love and obedience to the law. In John 14:15, he tells his followers, “If you love me, obey my commands.”

Love is at the “heart” of all God’s laws, from the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 to the two great commandments Jesus gives: “Love

the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind” and “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27). The golden rule—“Do to others as you would like them to do to you.” (Luke 6:31)—also is based on love.

As with any rule or law, we humans repeatedly fall short when it comes to obedience. That’s why it’s important to emphasize the forgiveness that Jesus freely offers to us—and that we are to freely offer to other people.

Throughout the Bible, it’s clear that disobedience is serious and has big consequences. Yet our loving God longs to forgive us, restore us, and reconcile us to himself. Continue reading for high-impact ways to share these messages with your kids.

## Commandments for Kids

The Ten Commandments can seem intimidating—not just because they set a high standard but because they include some archaic language. Bring the law to children’s level with these age-appropriate adaptations: #1: God is the one true God. #2: Worship only God. #3 Be careful with God’s name. #4: Set aside a day for God and for rest. #5: Respect your mom and dad. #6: Don’t kill or hurt anyone. #7: Keep your marriage promises. #8: Don’t steal or take what isn’t yours. #9: Don’t tell lies. #10: Don’t feel jealous of other people and what they have.



### TEACHABLE MOMENTS

#### #1 in Our Hearts

Tape a red heart shape onto a pitcher. Gather cups of water, small rocks, and markers.

Say: **This pitcher is like a heart. Let’s fill it with God.** Take turns pouring in water and saying why God deserves first place in your heart; for example, “God deserves first place in my heart because he made me.”

When the pitcher is full, say: **Our hearts are full of God’s goodness, but sometimes other things try to crowd into our hearts.** Have family members each draw on a rock one thing that takes up their time and attention. One at a time, add rocks to the pitcher until water starts to overflow.

Ask: **How is this like what happens in our hearts? How can we keep our hearts full of God so he has first place?** Read Exodus 20:3. Say: **God tells us not to have any idols. An idol is anything that crowds God out. God wants and deserves first place in our heart!**

**In Synch** Give each person two paper plates. Practice “skating” around a room on them. Then form pairs and have partners try to do the same moves. Switch partners for more synchronized fun. Then ask: “As you skated, how did you get to know your partner?” Read aloud 1 Corinthians 8:3. Ask: “How does knowing and following God’s laws and rules help us stay in sync with him?”

**No More Hard Hearts** Hand out hardboiled eggs. Decorate them with markers as you discuss how the outside of the eggs feel. Read aloud Psalm 95:6-9. Say: “God wants our hearts to be soft toward him so we obey out of love, but sometimes our hearts get hard and are closed to God.” Ask: “What might make people’s hearts hard?” Crack the eggs, peel the shells, and discuss how the inside of the eggs feel. Say: “When our hearts are hard, God can crack away the outer shell to reveal something soft on the inside.” Ask: “What helps make your heart soft toward God?” End with prayer—and eat the eggs.

**Focused Followers** Have family members form pairs. Whisper a strange instruction to one person in each pair; for example, put socks on your hands or sit on your head. Each instruction recipient must then silently get his or her partner

to do the task. Switch roles so everyone gets a turn. Ask: “How did you know what your partner wanted you to do? How do you know what God wants you to do?” Read aloud 1 Thessalonians 4:11. Ask: “How does living a quiet life help us focus on following God?”

**Transformed Hearts** Say: “Because of sin, no one can perfectly obey God’s law. Sin makes holes in our hearts, but God’s Holy Spirit fills our hearts and covers sin.” Cut brown craft foam into a large person shape and write “sin” across the chest. Cut a red foam heart and staple a heart to the chest. Punch out a large hole in the heart so “sin” shows through. Bunch together strips of orange and yellow tissue paper, pinch the tip, and push it through the hole so the “flame” bursts through the heart. Display your creation where your family can see it as a reminder.

**Stay on Track** Hide a Bible and give family members an easy map to find it. Then say: “The Bible contains God’s laws and shows us how to stay on track and follow them.” Read some “directions” and have family members tell you if they’re from the Bible or not. For example, “Love your enemies” (yes!); “Lie only if you have to” (no!).

Love means doing what God has commanded us, and he has commanded us to love another, just as you heard from the beginning.

—2 John 1:6