



Moses with the Ten Commandments,  
Rembrandt van Rijn, 1659

# Week 11

## Rembrandt van Rijn

### Ten Commandments

#### Introduction

Rembrandt van Rijn, is commonly just called Rembrandt. Isn't it interesting that some famous people are known by their last name, but many artists are recognized by their first name?

One of the stories that Rembrandt told was that of the Ten Commandments. The bible tells us that Mount Tabor was covered by a cloud for six days, after which Moses came from the cloud which was producing smoke and fire. Can you see the swirling cloud in Rembrandt's painting?

*“Now Mount Sinai was completely enveloped in smoke, because the Lord and come down upon it in fire. The smoke rose from it as though from a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled violently.” —Exodus 19:18*

#### Supplies

- 1/4 piece **white poster board** per child
- **Light oil pastels** (white or pale)
- **Dark, earth-tone oil pastels** (black, brown, grey...)
- **Printout of the Ten Commandments**, 1 per student
- **Glue sticks**
- **Tea Bags**, black and cup of hot water, 2-3 per class
- **Newspaper** to absorb excess water

#### Objectives

We have just finished our study of the Ten Commandments, so we will look at Rembrandt's painting of the Ten Commandments. While imitating Rembrandt's use of light we will review the Roman numerals from Year 2 to complete a Ten Commandment project for display.

#### Teacher Prep

- Cut poster board into fourths
- Prepare cup of hot water for teabag. Hot tap water is fine, it is not necessary to have boiling water.
- Set up an antiquing station with absorbent newspapers. The antique wash goes quickly—one or two stations are fine for your class.



Ten Commandments Closed



Ten Commandments Open

#### Terms to Know

Rembrandt

Ten commandments

Space

Light source

Highlights

#### Skills to Learn

Ten commandments

Cutting

Visualizing light source

Roman Numerals

Adding highlights

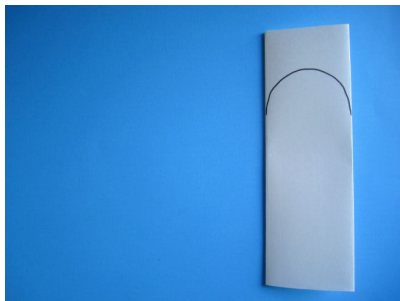
Antique wash

Procedure

5 minutes

- Review Rembrandt and the painting, *The Risen Christ Appearing to Mary Magdalen*.
- Introduce the *Moses with the Ten Commandments* and discuss what is seen in the picture.
- Note: the children have just finished memorizing the Ten Commandments in their memory work.
- Begin steeping tea bags in a cup with warm water from faucet so they are ready at the end of class (boiling water is not necessary).

5 minutes



Fold paper in half, then in half again.

Draw arch at top of paper.

Cut arch at top of folded paper.

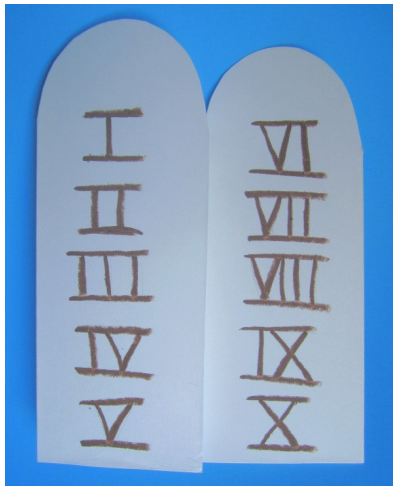


Open and refold it so it opens like French doors.

Matte (non-coated) side of the poster board **must** be facing outward.

Draw tablet shape on board.

20 minutes



Explain to students that we will try to fill our space. Demonstrate by filling your tablets with large Roman numerals.

Use pencil to write Roman numerals on front flaps, sketching lightly as learned in week 3.

Trace with a dark oil pastel.

Imagine a light source on the top left of your Ro-

man numerals.



Draw with a light oil pastel on the top and left side of the Roman numerals to create highlights.

Cut out the 10 commandments.



Glue ten commandments inside, centered.

Remind students of proper glue stick etiquette if necessary.

When 5-7 minutes remain, go one at a time to antiquing station.

Rub Roman numeral side gently in rows with wet tea bag, working left to right.



If tea bag gets worn, trade for a new one.

Close flaps.



You now have the Ten Commandments to take home and display. Good Job!

Terms to Know

Rembrandt

Ten commandments

Space

Light source

Highlights

Skills to Learn

Ten commandments

Cutting

Visualizing light source

Roman Numerals

Adding highlights

Antique wash





Adoration of the Shepherds, Rembrandt van Rijn, 1646

# Week 12

## Rembrandt van Rijn

### “Jesus is the Light” Nativity

#### Introduction

You will find that most artists of the Christian age have painted their vision of the Nativity. It is interesting to compare paintings of the same subject by artists from different schools, or styles.

Rembrandt’s nativity has very dramatic light, seeming to come from Jesus, who is the light of the world. You see the light reflected off the shepherd’s faces more than you see the shepherds themselves who recede into the shadows.

We will imitate this light coming from the baby Jesus in our “Jesus is the Light” Nativity.

#### Supplies

- Cardstock, 1 sheet per student
- Foam or paper plates for paint pallets, 1 per student
- Brushes, medium size, 1 per student in largest class
- Black construction paper, 1 sheet per students, pre-cut
- White glue
- Glue cards, 1 per student in largest class
- Popsicle sticks, 1 per student in largest class
- Spray adhesive

#### Objectives

While advancing our technique of mixing tints and our skills of composition and cutting, we will create a Rembrandt inspired nativity to take home for Christmas.

#### Teacher Prep

- Cut black paper into strips: 1 strip 2” x 11”; 4 strips 1/2” x 5 1/2 “ per student
- Cut Black construction paper in half so each student gets one half sheet for cutting Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.
- Pre-cut Mary and Joseph for your least able cutters. Let them cut baby Jesus themselves.
- You will be using white glue for the first time. Review suggestions below.

#### White Glue Etiquette

1. Handing a full bottle of white glue to young students can be a disaster!
2. Instead, squeeze a little glue onto a square of cardstock or index card. This is your glue card.
3. Use an applicator such as a popsicle stick to apply glue.
4. Refill glue card as necessary.



“Jesus is the Light” Nativity

#### Terms to Know

Rembrandt  
Nativity  
Light source  
Value  
Tint  
Concentric

#### Skills to Learn

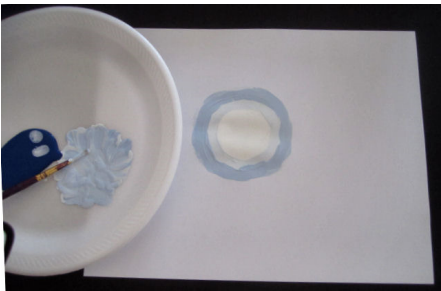
Mixing tints  
Painting concentric circles  
Cutting  
Arranging a composition

Procedure

5 minutes

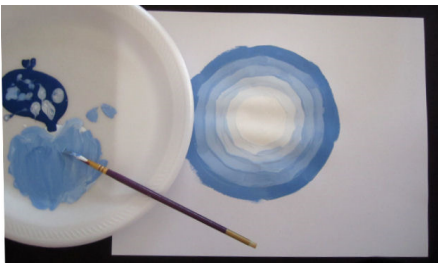
- Review Rembrandt and the painting, *The Risen Christ Appearing to Mary Magdalen* and *Moses with the Ten Commandments*.
- Discuss the light and the shadows in *The Adoration of the Shepherds*.
- What makes Rembrandt’s picture of the nativity different from that of other artists?
- Review paint brush etiquette (see week 1).
- Write names on paper.
- Place a blue and white blob of paint on each student’s pallet.
- Paint a white circle in the center of the paper—take time to help each student get this right, as the rest will build on this beginning.

10 minutes



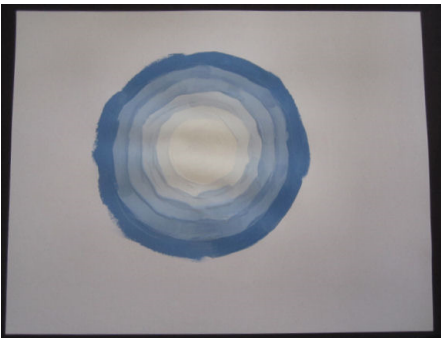
Dip a tiny corner of your brush into blue. Less blue than you think, in fact, the tiniest amount possible!

Bring back to the white and mix to make a tint of blue.

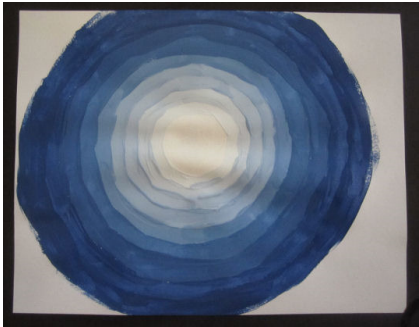


Paint a ring around the white circle.

Continue to add darker circles to the outside.



Continue to add darker, concentric circles.



As the circles get darker you will need more and more blue to make an impact.

When 15 minutes are left in class, have students finish by filling their paper with pure blue.



- Pass out templates, black paper, pencils, and scissors.
- Trace around templates.
- Cut carefully around templates. Remind students of proper scissors etiquette if necessary. (Close scissors when laying on the

- table, don’t wave them in the air)
- Pass out glue cards and popsicle sticks. White glue will work fine if the paint is still wet—glue sticks will not.

Glue thick black strip along bottom first.

Center Jesus under the light and glue.



Rembrandt’s light is always centered around Jesus.

Glue Mary and Joseph beside Jesus.

The composition will be better if we “fill the space.”



Glue 4 black strips to make walls and roof of nativity.

Mount with spray adhesive to flatten.

Terms to Know

Rembrandt

Nativity

Light source

Value

Tint

Concentric

Skills to Learn

Mixing tints

Painting concentric circles

Cutting

Arranging a composition