

October 17, 2012

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 19:9; 16-20

Exodus 20:1-2

**LESSON FOCUS**

***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment.*** (Matthew 22:37-38)

**The Seventh Commandment****You shall not steal.*****What does this mean?***

**We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.**

God turns his attention to your relationship with yourself. When you steal, cheat, lie, get something that doesn’t belong to you, you lose self respect. Our sinful nature can adjust to such a way of thinking, but there is a sense of pride and self-worth that comes from working hard and completing a job. Certainly in this command God is protecting our property from others who would steal it, but He is also protecting our self-worth.

**Today’s Bible Lesson:**

During the time of testing in this wilderness experience, the first thing God wanted to see was whether or not His people would keep His laws and commandments. So God then proceeds to lay out all of the laws that He wants the Israelites to abide by.

In the third month after being delivered from Egypt, God tells Moses that He will literally come down Himself onto Mount Sinai in the presence of all of His people.

When God comes down, the Bible says that Mount Sinai is completely enveloped in smoke. There was thunder, lightning, thick smoke and the entire mountain “quaked greatly.”

God then descends upon Mount Sinai “in fire.” The smoke was like the smoke of a furnace the way it was ascending off of the mountain. Just imagine such an event – that God the Father Himself is descending from His throne in heaven to visit these people with His manifest presence!

God only calls Moses to come to the top of the mountain to meet and talk with Him. No one else was allowed to go up. God then proceeds to tell Moses what the basic 10 commandments are going to be. In addition to the 10 commandments were other specific laws that He wanted the children of Israel to abide by. Moses then comes back down to deliver all of this to the Israelites.

Shortly after this first event, God then calls Moses back to the mountaintop once again. Moses stays on the top of the mountaintop this time with God for forty days and forty nights. The Bible says that the sight of the Lord at the top of the mountaintop was like a “consuming fire.”

In this second meeting with God, God gives Moses specific instructions on building a tabernacle where God’s manifest presence can dwell with the Israelites out in the wilderness for the 40 years they were

going to have to stay out there. It was during this second meeting that God gives Moses the 10 commandments written on a stone tablet!

He was given two tablets and the tablets had writings on both sides. All of the writing on the tablets was literally the handwriting of God Himself – literally engraved right on these stone tablets.

Again, just imagine this entire scene. This one man, Moses, is allowed to meet and talk with God direct for 40 days and 40 nights and then to top it all off, receives two tablets of stone with God's personal handwriting engraved on these two stone tablets!

While all of this is going on between God and Moses for the 40 days, the most unbelievable thing starts to happen at the bottom of this mountain. The Israelites start to grow impatient when they see Moses is delayed in coming back down from the mountaintop. They start murmuring and complaining, saying they do not know what has become of Moses.

### **10 Commandments Overview/History**

The Ten Commandments were given to Moses, the great leader of the Hebrews; over 3,000 years ago after the Hebrews were delivered from slavery in Egypt. While the Law of Moses is made up of over 600 rules, the Ten Commandments were a succinct list of rules from which the others were developed. They are recorded in two chapters of the Bible: Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5.

When Jesus was asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" he replied: "You know the Commandments, keep these and you will live." For now, just notice that Jesus attests to the importance of the Ten Commandments. This is why Christians still accept them.

The Israelites viewed the Law (10 Commandments) as a gift from God, not an option or curse. We too need to accept the 10 Commandments as a gift from God, a reminder of God's great love and concern for His people, even today.

The commandments listed in Exodus 20 are the most commonly used set of Commandments. Christians believe the 10 Commandments were written by God on stone tablets and given to Moses during the Exodus, around or about 1450 BC.

### **Exodus 20 The Ten Commandments (NIV text)**

<sup>1</sup> And God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup> "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

<sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup> "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup> "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the

sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup> "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> "You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> "You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> "You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

*"God threatens to punish everyone who breaks these commandments. We should be afraid of His anger because of this and not violate such commandments. But He promises grace and all good things to those who keep such commandments. Because of this, we, too, should love Him, trust Him, and willingly do what His commandments require." Martin Luther in the Close of the Commandments in the Small Catechism.*

*About the **numbering**: there are at least two sets of numbering used, and both are very old, at least 1,600 years. Most Protestants use the numbering adopted by Josephus and Origen, but Catholics and Lutherans use the numbering of St. Augustine, who took it from a Hebrew list in the fifth century. The numbering is not in the Bible.*

## WELCOME ACTIVITY

Make play dough, coloring it gray.

Set out lumps of dough on the tables. Use rolling pins from the Resource Room for children to flatten the dough. Use plastic knives to draw and cut out the shape of the two stone tablets, (straight sides, rounded tops.)

As children are playing with dough and cutting their shapes, say:

**God carved an important message on flat sheets of stone called tablets. He wanted the people to remember this message for a long time.**

Put dough tablets into baggies for children to take home.

## OPENING

Cut a black rectangle out of black construction paper from the Resource Room. Cut a bright red circle and a bright green circle and put on black paper like a stop light.

Ask children if they know what it is. Point out that this is a rule for cars driving, bicycles riding, and even people walking on streets. Explain that rules are good because they help keep us safe and from troubles. Say: **Today we'll learn about 10 special rules that God gives to us called the Ten Commandments.**

## BIBLE STORY

**Exodus 19:9; 16-20**

**Exodus 20:1-2**

Open your Bible so children can see you “reading” God’s Word. Show them your Bible and the words to they know what you’re saying is coming from God’s Word. Use Tell the Story idea below. Use The Beginners Bible page 124-126 to help children see the story.

***“Put God’s kingdom first. Do what He wants you to do.”*** (Matthew 6:33 NIV)

**Moses’ was God’s friend. He helped the people follow God.**

**One day while they were in the hot desert, God told Moses to climb up a special mountain. Moses climbed and climbed the mountain. (Make climbing motions)**

**When he got to the top, he saw lots of smoke. God spoke to Moses through the smoke clouds. There God gave him the 10 rules carved on two large flat rocks.**

**Let’s count to ten. (One, two, three. . .).**

**Now, let’s see what the ten important rules were. The first three rules told the people to love God more than anything else. They also told the people not to use God’s name in a bad way. It also helped the people see how important it was to go to church and worship God. Use the stoplight switching between red and green. Explain the stop light will remind us what God doesn’t want us to do (stop) and how He does want us to live (go).**

- 1. Do not love other things more than God. / Do love and trust in God most of all.**
- 2. Do not misuse God’s name. / Do use God’s name in prayer and songs of joy.**
- 3. Do not forget about God’s Word. / Listen to and believe in God’s Word.**

**The next seven rules were things to help people love others. God told us to respect our parents, tell the truth, be honest, not steal, and not wish for things that other people had. Use the stoplight switching between red and green. Explain the stop light will remind us what God doesn’t want us to do (stop) and how He does want us to live (go).**

- 4. Do not disobey your mom and day. / Respect people who watch over you.**
- 5. Do not hurt other people. / Be kind and helpful.**
- 6. Do not be nasty and disrespectful. / Treat each other honorably and with kindness.**
- 7. Do not steal. / Help people keep what is theirs.**
- 8. Do not say bad things about someone. / Say kind things to others.**
- 9 & 10. Do not want what belongs to someone else. / Be happy with what you have.**

**All these rules are important because they help us love God and love others. God’s laws are good, but we aren’t. We sin and do wrong things. The Bible tells us God’s Law and also the best news of all – Jesus loves us! He takes our sin away, and He helps us obey His rules.**

## GOD'S WORD IN MY HEART

***“Put God's kingdom first. Do what He wants you to do.”*** (Matthew 6:33 NIRV)

Read this passage from your Bible. Help children learn this verse.

## GAME

### Game 1: Red Light, Green Light

Play the Game:

Children line up; when you say, “green light” they run toward the goal line; when you say, “red light” they must stop where they are. Continue the pattern at various speeds until all the children reach the goal line.

Talk about how important rules are for playing a game. Point out that everyone has more fun if everyone plays fairly according to the rules.

**God gave us special rules to follow. These rules are good. God knows they can help us live together in a better way, a way that is God-pleasing.**

## CREATING

### Crosses

Supplies:

You may cut crosses out of construction paper or use crosses found in Resource Room

10 heart stickers per child

*Egg cartons*

Give each child 10 heart stickers to place on their cross.

As the children work, point out there are 10 hearts on their cross to remind us of the Ten Commandments. God loves us and forgives us through Jesus when we sin. And then He leads us to obey His ways.

*For egg cartons, cut in half lengthwise, then cut 5 from the other strip and place five over 6 for cross, no glue or staples needed!*

Write today's Bible verse on each cross.

***“Put God's kingdom first. Do what He wants you to do.”*** (Matthew 6:33 NIV)

## TASTING ACTIVITY

Cut bread into the shape of a tablet and spread with butter or jam.

As children enjoy treat talk about today's Bible lesson. Count to 10 again. Review today's Bible verse.

***"Put God's kingdom first. Do what He wants you to do."*** (Matthew 6:33 NIRV)

## INVESTIGATING

Supplies:

Pictures of animals with large ears – elephants, elk, deer, rabbits, foxes, dogs

1 large sheet of paper per child

Tape

Roll paper into funnels, keeping the small, pointed end of the paper along the upper edge as long as possible. Tape funnels so children can grab them. Use at least 3 pieces of tape per funnel.

**God gave the Israelites (His special people) rules to live by because He loved them. He gave us rules too, and ears to hear when others tell us about His rules. We need to listen carefully, because His rules help us understand how much we need God.**

Activity:

Show children pictures of animals with big ears. Emphasize how large ears catch sound better than small ones, allowing the animal to hear well.

Show children how to put the narrow end of the funnel near their ears and listen to a sound you make (clap your hands, whistle, sing, etc).

Now instruct them to take the funnel away from their ears and listen to the same sound. **Ask: How did the sound change?**

Repeat with more sounds.

## **CLOSING ACTIVITY**

Show the clay tablets. Say, **The Ten Commandments are God's gift to us. They tell us how to live together in fairness and peace. The problem is that we don't live like we should. We sin. We do wrong things. So God sent Jesus.**

Show cross. Say, **Jesus obeyed God's commandments perfectly in our place. Jesus took the punishment for the things we do wrong. Jesus loves us!**

**Sing: Jesus Loves Me**

*Jesus loves me, this I know  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong,  
They are weak, but He is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so.*

**Pray: Dear God, thank you for giving us laws to live by. We know we can't keep your laws perfectly. Thank you for sending Jesus to take away our sins, the things we do wrong. Thank you for loving me! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**