

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:1-21

The Big Idea: We love God and people so that the world may see Jesus.

Read the passage

Story Summary for Children:

After Moses delivered God's message to the Israelites, God himself spoke to his people from Mt. Sinai. God gave Israel the Ten Commandments to follow so they would receive God's benefits:

1. Do not put any gods in place of me.
2. Do not make statues of gods that look like anything in the sky or on the earth or in the waters.
3. Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
4. Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy.
5. Honor your father and mother
6. Do not commit murder.
7. Do not commit adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not give false witness against your neighbor.
10. Do not long for anything that belongs to your neighbor.

God had promised Israel that if they obeyed him, he would take care of them and make them his special possession. If not, they would experience God's judgment. When God finished, the Israelites were afraid. They told Moses to speak to God on their behalf or they would die. But Moses said, "Do not be afraid." He explained that God was only showing them how important it was to obey his commands.

Family Lesson Discussion Questions:

1. To whom did God give the Ten Commandments? (he spoke to all of the Israelites)
2. How many of the Ten Commandments can you name without looking?
3. How did the Israelites respond? (they trembled & asked Moses to approach God on their behalf)
4. What would happen if the Israelites obeyed God? What if they didn't?

Family Lesson Discussion Questions:

1. What do you notice about the commandments? (they tell us how to love God and others)
2. If we love and obey God, what will he do? (he will treat us as his special possession)
3. Why did God give them the Ten Commandments? (so the nations would see God through them)
4. Why should we love God and others? (so that the world can see Jesus)
5. Where do others see Jesus in you?

Memory Verse: "Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39)

Parents: Explain with your family how the commandments apply to them. Talk with them about why it is important to follow God's commandments (not just because we said so!).

A Look Ahead: Next week's passage is Exodus 20:22-23:19 and the Big Idea is, "God loves us enough to show us how to live." Ask your family, "How do mom and dad show that they love you?" You may want to read next week's passage with your child and start explaining the story.