

The Ten Commandments (Part 2)

(Exodus 19 - 20)

Introduction

Ask: What must you do to get to heaven? Are you to keep the Ten Commandments? Are you to do good deeds and hope that the good things you do in life outnumber the bad?

Acts 16:30-31

*Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹They replied, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved**, along with everyone in your household."*

Ask: What does it mean to believe in Jesus?

It means to trust that what He did for us on the cross paid the penalty for our violations against God's law.

Opening Prayer

Father, we want to understand Your ways. Please open our ears this morning so that we might know You better. Use the Word like a flash light on our path; show us Your way. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

Jesus replied, "'You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, [and] Love your neighbor as yourself.' (Matthew 22:37-40)

Lesson

Last week we began our study of the Ten Commandments. We looked at the first four commandments that tell us ways to love God. This week we will look at the rest of the commandments which tell us ways to love each other.

Commandment #5 — Honor your father and mother

Exodus 20:12

"Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

This is the only commandment with a promise attached...

Ephesians 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. ²"Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth."

To honor means show them respect. Your parents are God's gift to you. Think of all they do for you. They protect you from many dangers. They provide things you need like food, clothing, a warm and safe home. They even give you things you do not need but like to have — toys, bikes, special treats.

You can honor them by obeying them, by being kind to them, by speaking to them and about them with respect. Perhaps you have substitute parents. God wants you to honor them, too. Even if you don't live with your parents all the time, honor them in every way you can. People who honor their parents are people who please God and receive His promise of blessing.

Commandment #6 — Do not murder

Exodus 20:13

You must not murder.

Murder is taking someone's life in an unlawful way. Life is precious. God breathed His life into the first man, Adam. So everyone's life is important — your life, the lives of those you love, the lives of strangers, the lives of unborn babies. Life is God's gift; and we are responsible not only not to take another's life, but to protect the lives of others.

There are other ways to "murder" someone besides taking their life.

Matthew 5:21-22

"You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.' ²²But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

Jesus said, if you call someone a bad name, you have murdered his character or reputation and deserve God's judgment.

Ask the Lord to guard your mouth whenever you get angry!

Commandment #7 — Be faithful in marriage

Exodus 20:14

You must not commit adultery.

Adultery is when a married man or woman doesn't stay faithful to their wife or husband. This commandment shows how God looks at marriage. God planned the first marriage. He created Eve especially for Adam and planned that they should stay together (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5, 6) After you are married, you should be true to your own husband or wife. People joined together in marriage must be careful not to "fall in love" with anyone else. Marriage vows say, "Till death do us part" or "As long as we both shall live." Committing adultery is breaking those vows by doing something with someone else's husband or wife that only a married couple should do.

Disobeying this command causes great unhappiness. While you are young, learn to turn from sinful things like listening to dirty stories, looking at evil pictures, watching films that cause wrong thoughts. Determine, with God's help, to keep yourself pure. And begin praying that, at the right time, God will bring into your life the right person for you to marry. Then trust Him to do what's best for you. If you obey God's laws, He will help you to enjoy life, married or single.

Commandment #8 — Do not steal

Exodus 20:15

You must not steal.

Stealing is taking or keeping something that is not your own. Robbing a bank and shoplifting are not the only ways to steal. Borrowing something from a brother or sister or friend and failing to return it is stealing. Copying answers from somebody else's school paper is stealing. Cheating in a game is stealing another's chance to win. The Bible says we should love our neighbors as ourselves. If we love others as we love ourselves, we will want the best for them and will not steal in any way.

Commandment #9 — Do not lie

Exodus 20:16

You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

Giving false testimony means lying. Lying is anything that deceives or tricks someone into believing something that is not true.

We give "false testimony" by leaving something out of a story, adding false information to a story, telling only half the truth, or twisting the facts. We should always tell the truth.

Ephesians 4:25

So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body.

Often gossip is lying — saying something unkind about someone when you aren't sure it is true. Exaggeration is lying — telling a story better than it really happened. It is lying to make promises you know you cannot keep.

It is wrong to lie because it is against the very nature of God. The Devil is the "father of lies" (John 8:44), but Jesus said, "*I am*

the...truth" (John 14:6). Deception is a way of life for many people, but God's children must not give in to it.

Matthew 12:36

And I tell you this, you must give an account on judgment day for every idle word you speak.

Ask the Lord to help you always tell the truth. (Psalm 119:29)

Commandment #10 — Do not want what belongs to others

Exodus 20:17

"You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."

To covet is to want what belongs to others. It goes beyond simply admiring someone else's possession or thinking, "I'd like to have one of those." Coveting includes envy and resenting the fact that others have what you don't.

To covet means to long for something that you cannot afford to buy or something that belongs to someone else. When you feel you just have to have something and you will not be satisfied until you get it, that is coveting.

When we do not let God control our wants, our coveting will lead us to break other commandments, too. God has promised to meet all your needs. Happiness won't come by getting what you want. Happiness comes by being content with what you have (Hebrews 13:5).

Luke 12:15

Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

Ask God to make you thankful for all that He has given you.

Conclusion

Ask: Why did God give us the Ten Commandments? What is the purpose of the Law?

God gave us the Ten Commandments so that we would know how to live so that we don't offend God or hurt other people. [Review Verse for Today.]

He knows that if we obey all these laws, we will live a long and happy life. He wants us to obey them. But the truth of the matter is, we are unable to keep them perfectly. It is impossible for us to do enough good deeds to make up for the sin in our lives.

In fact, God gave us these commandments so that we would realize that we are not able to be right with God on our own.

The purpose of the law was not to save you, but to show you what sin is, and to point you to Jesus who took the punishment for your sin.

Let's bow our hearts and thank God for His wonderful plan of salvation.

Closing Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus to take the punishment that I deserve. Lord, if you hadn't made a way of escape for me I'd be doomed to spend all of eternity in hell apart from You. Help me to live my life worthy of your gift of salvation. I want every thought I think, every word I speak and everything I do to bring your name honor and blessing. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Game Center

Connect Four

1. Create magnetic game cards for the two teams.
2. Draw a 5-column by 4-row grid on the whiteboard.
3. Divide class into two teams: *Egyptians* and the *Israelites*.
4. Ask a team a review question; have them discuss the answer.
5. Choose one child from that team to answer for the team.
6. If the child answers the question correctly, he places a game card on the board, starting from the bottom row and stacking up each column.
7. First team to connect four cards a row in any direction, wins. Teams must be strategic in placing their cards while blocking their opponent!

Or use the following review questions in another game of your choice:

1. What must you do to get to heaven? Are you supposed to keep the Ten Commandments? Or do good deeds? (No, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and what He did for you on the cross.)
2. What do the first four Commandments have to do with? (Our relationship with God.)
3. In order to be perfect as God is perfect, how many of the Commandments do we need to keep? (All of them all the time.)
4. What does it mean to honor your father and your mother? (To prize highly, show respect, treat as precious or valuable.)
5. Why are your parents valuable to you? (They are God's gift to you.)
6. Why is it wrong to murder? (God said not to do it. Life is God's gift; only He has the right to take a life.)
7. Is being angry with someone the same as murdering them? (Jesus said it was!)
8. What is adultery? (Doing something with someone else's husband or wife that only a married couple should do.)
9. Name some ways people steal things besides robbing a bank and shoplifting? (Borrowing something and not returning it; copying answers from someone else's paper; cheating in a game.)
10. What does it mean to bear false witness against someone? (To lie. To leave something out of a story, telling a half-truth, twisting the facts, or inventing a falsehood.)
11. What is a lie? (Anything that deceives or tricks someone into believing an untruth.)
12. Why is it wrong to lie? (It is against the very nature of God.)
13. Who is the Father of Lies? (The Devil.)
14. What does it mean to covet? (To wish to have someone else's possession to the point of envy.)
15. Who is the only person that ever kept the Ten Commandments perfectly? (Jesus!)
16. Why did God give us the Ten Commandments if He knew we couldn't keep them? (He wanted us to realize our own inability to be righteous. To humble us and to be thankful that He sent Jesus.)