



Review

The Ten Commandments

Family Study Guides • The Ten Commandments Series

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The Ten Commandments

This Family Guide completes our study of God's Ten Commandments. You can use this Guide as a review of the key points from each commandment. The objective for God's Commandments is to learn how to better love God and man, which leads to a deeper relationship with God and others. Additionally at the end of the Guide, there are suggested lesson activities that can be used in a classroom setting.

Charlton Heston as Moses in The Ten Commandments



Summary of the Law:

- What one word summarizes God's law? [Love]
- What is love? [The law helps us to see how to love God and man. It is the way God lives and it is the way that God is teaching us to live.]

God has given mankind laws in His Bible and the foundation of these laws is called the Ten Commandments. When we keep and obey the spirit of the Ten Commandments, we honor God and bless other humans by our godly actions. Everyone benefits when God's ways are followed and put into action.



God's Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. The children of Israel had been in captivity for many, many years and had forgotten God's law. When God brought them out to freedom, He began restoring His law to them. God wrote His Ten Commandments on two tables of stone.



We could divide God's law into two parts. The first part consists of the first four commandments that show love toward God when we obey them. The second part consists of the last six commandments that show love to other humans.

God's Commandments 1-4 Teach How to Love God

Objective:

Better understand that the first four commandments teach how to love and honor God.

God defines true worship

Read Matthew 22:36-40, Good News Translation, “‘Teacher,’ he asked, ‘which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: “‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’” The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

Only God can define how to worship Him. “Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” and “love your neighbor as yourself.” God wants us to obey Him and not make up our own ideas on how to worship Him.

Questions:

- How do we know what God wants us to do to show that we love and respect Him?
 - Where does He tell us what He wants us to do, and how he wants us to worship Him?
- [Correct response: If we were to ask God what He wanted, we could find the answer in the Bible—specifically in the Ten Commandments.]

Lets’ review the first four commandments to see how God wants us to love, honor and respect Him.

1. The First Commandment

Have your child state or read this commandment. “Worship no god but me” (Exodus 20:3, GNT).

a. Today many people think that God is something else, like Buddha for example. The Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, etc. had many ideas of who and what God is. The American Indians worship the earth, sky and nature, saying that all of it is what makes up God. God says “WRONG!” There is only one true God, consisting of two beings.

b. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God” (John 1:1-2).

2. The Second Commandment

Have your child state or read this commandment. “I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods” (Exodus 20:5, New Living Translation).

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,” (Exodus 20:4-5).

While this says that we should not have an image of anything and pretend it is a god, it also means that God does not want us making images of things and pretending it is Him or is of Him!

Many people try to show honor to God, by going to church on Sunday, observing Christmas, Easter or other such days. While it is not up to us to judge other peoples' motives or sincerity, we are called to honor God on the days that He sets aside as holy. God tells us which days that He wants us to give special honor to Him on. Where in the Bible can you find that list?

3. The Third Commandment

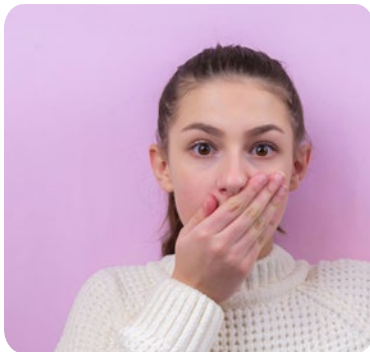
Have your child state or read this commandment.

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain" (Exodus 20:7).

"You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God. The LORD will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name" (Exodus 20:7, NLT).

What does vain mean? (Answer: Vain means empty, useless, false, unreal, worthless.)

How can we misuse God's name?



a. Making His name unimportant or using it in a wrong way

- People use God's name often—but not in the context of honor and respect. How many of you hear God's name used at school or on TV in a casual manner? (i.e. "Oh, God").

- People use God's name as a curse word instead of to worship and honor Him.

- The word "damn" is not a curse word by itself. What does it mean? So people are using Gods' name to curse things. We cannot and should not curse someone in God's name.

b. Using God's name to say something that God does not say.

- Many people say that God wants them to worship him with Christmas, Easter and on Sunday.

- Is that true? They are using God's name in vain—they are misusing God's name.

- If we are going to use God's name, we need to make it very meaningful. We can say "God says for us to keep His commandments." That is quoting Him, and using His name properly.

4. The Fourth Commandment

Have your child state or read this commandment.

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8). This also includes God's Holy Days.

When people try to show honor to God, by going to church on Sunday, observing Christmas, Easter or other such days, it is giving God something that has no value. God tells us which days that He wants us to honor Him on. Where in the Bible can you find that list?

Conclusion: We must worship, love and honor God the way the *He* wants us to—and don't give God second best or do what *we* think He might want us to do.

God's Commandments 5-10 Teach How to Love Others

Let's better understand the golden rule and how the last five commandments teach love and respect for all whom we come in contact with.

"Do not take revenge on others or continue to hate them, but love your neighbors as you love yourself. I am the LORD" (Leviticus 19:18, GNT).

This is the "royal" law because it is the source of all the rules for guiding human relationships.

In this section of the Family Study Guide, we will answer two very important questions:

1. Who is your neighbor?
2. How do you love your neighbor?

Use the dictionary and scriptures to answer central questions and connect to commandments 5-10.

1. Who is your neighbor?

Let's talk about what a neighbor might be as defined by the Bible. A neighbor is not merely someone who lives nearby or that you know. It is anyone that we come into contact with on a daily basis. It is even our brothers and sisters!

Webster's Dictionary definition of "neighbor"

- Definition 3: "one's fellow human being"
- Definition 4: "a person who shows kindness or helpfulness toward fellow humans"

a. How did Jesus Christ define a neighbor?

- Read Luke 10:29 "Who is my neighbor?"
- Christ answered this question with the story of the person robbed on the highway.

b. What do you think Christ meant by this parable?

- We should not limit our love for others.
- We should love others to the same degree we love ourselves.

2. How do we love our neighbor?

a. If we properly love God—we will end up loving people.

- Read Luke 10:25-37
- Read Romans 13:8-10

b. Jesus gave two basic commandments in the New Testament (Matthew 22:37-40).

- Love God with whole heart, soul and mind.
- Love neighbor as yourself.

c. What is the "Golden Rule?"

- "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
- List some things that you would want kids at school or in the neighborhood to do or not do to or for you. (lie, steal, hurt you, be mean to you or your parents, want your things, etc.)

3. Review of commandments 6-10

Review the last six commandments and discuss basic explanation or key points regarding how it teaches “love for neighbor.”

Commandments 6-10	Explanation and Key Points
#5 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you” (Exodus 20:12).	
#6 “Thou shalt not kill” (Exodus 20:13, King James Version).	
#7 “You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14).	
#8 “You shall not steal” (Exodus 20:15).	
#9 “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor” (Exodus 20:16).	
#10 “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor’s” (Exodus 20:17).	

Activity: Assign your child one of the commandments. Have him/her create a skit or scenario that shows or describes someone either keeping or breaking the commandment and share with the family. Have the other family members guess whether the commandment was kept or broken.

When Jesus returns to this earth to be King of kings and Lord of lords and the Kingdom of God is put in place, the law of God will be restored and people will learn that obedience to His Commandments brings blessings and happiness.

Family Discussions

What would you do?

For each of the following situations, talk about how God would want us to handle these situations by using the commandment(s) that would apply.

You are at your friend's house and there is a new toy, bike or play station. You really would like to play with it. You want it really badly. You just keep thinking and thinking about it. Finally you go get it and take it home. At least two commandments were broken in this scenario. What might they be?

You are at Church and you can see at the top of a church bag or on a chair, a piece of really good candy or a pretty writing pen. You would like to have it. It is just sitting there in view of all. What will you do? What would God want you to do?

A kid on the bus is being mean to you and calling you names. It makes you so mad and you want to hurt him. What should you do and think before you act by pushing him or calling him names back? What commandment should we be thinking of? (Sixth commandment—murder; read Matthew 5:21-22)

You are in class and you are taking a test. You didn't have time to study enough because you had to help your mom with the younger kids and work around the house. You want to do well on the test to make your parents happy. You can see a classmate's answers and some of them are the ones you don't know. What will you do? Which of God's commandments would tell us what we should do? (Eighth commandment—do not steal—and ninth commandment—lying that you know the answers)

Your mother has asked you to do some chores around the house (take out the trash; clean your room; clean up after the dog, etc). You don't want to and you get mad and throw a fit or ignore what she asked. According to God's way of thinking, what commandment should you be thinking about? (Fifth—honor and obey your father and your mother, so that you may live long.)

There is a song and other music on a CD that a friend downloaded off the Internet. You really want this music. He offers to loan the CD so that you can make a copy. It was not purchased—it is a pirated copy, but you don't have enough money to buy the CD and you don't get your allowance for two more weeks. What will you do? Which commandments tell us what to do? (Tenth—lusting for something you don't have, eighth—stealing someone's property)

You see a married woman kissing someone who is not her husband. You know that this is not a good thing to do because the seventh commandment says . . .

There is a cute boy/girl in your class. You really like them and think about them all the time. You would like to have them as your boyfriend/girlfriend, but they don't want that. You want them to notice you and now all you can think about is this cute boy/girl. What is going to happen? What commandments should we be aware of? (Tenth—lusting for something not yours, seventh—adultery)



Obeying the Commandments

These are some situations that can be read for each of the commandments. There is one each for obeying and for disobeying. Mix them up when you discuss or make up some of your own. Tell which commandment is involved before you read it, then discuss how it is either broken or obeyed in the example. For a challenge, have children create their own scenario contrasting obeying and disobeying and then share.



First Commandment

- Jake is careful to pray every morning before he gets busy.
- Sometimes Jan will do whatever her friend wants her to do even if she knows it's wrong.

Second Commandment

- Tommy visited a different church with his cousin. He shook his head when he saw someone praying to a statue. "God wants me to pray to Him, not to a statue," Tommy said.
- Timmy liked the little altar with a picture of Jesus and a candle that he saw at a friend's house. He asked his mom if they could get one too.



Third Commandment

- Joey's teacher often said, "Oh, my God." It bothered Joey, and he asked her to please stop saying it.
- Melissa heard her friend say "Jesus Christ" when she got mad. Melissa tried saying it herself the next time something bothered her.

Fourth Commandment

- Bobby enjoys playing quiet games at home on the Sabbath before going to services with his family.
- John's friend offered him \$5 to help him mow his lawn last Sabbath. John said "Sure!" because he really needs the money.

Fifth Commandment

- When Polly's mom calls her, she tries to hurry to find out why.
- Frank likes to run and hide when his mom calls him.

Sixth Commandment

- Joan tries to be friendly with everyone.
- Ginny gets mad at people a lot and often stomps away yelling "I hate you!"

Seventh Commandment

- Lori's parents have been married for 15 years and love each other more than ever.
- A man on the TV show decided he loved a woman he worked with. He left his family to go live with her.

Eighth Commandment

- Ann is always careful to ask her sister before borrowing things from her.
- Mary left the store with a candy bar that she didn't pay for when her friend dared her to.

Ninth Commandment

- When Pete’s mom asked who broke the mirror in the front hallway, Pete apologized. He explained he was playing with a ball and lost control.
- When Paul’s mom asked who broke the hall mirror, Paul tried to blame his baby brother for throwing a rattle. It had really been Paul’s ball.

Tenth Commandment

- Julie has fun playing at her friend Nancy’s fancy house with her toys and computer. She’s always glad to go home to her own small home and family.
- Jimmy couldn’t wait to get to his friend Tony’s expensive house to play with his toys and video games. He complained all the way home about his own crummy toys and tiny house.



Additional Resources for Your Family Studies

United News series, “Learn, Love and Live by the Ten Commandments”

<https://www.ucg.org/members/united-news/learn-love-and-live-by-the-ten-commandments>

UCG Study Booklet “The Ten Commandments”

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/the-ten-commandments>

Jelly Learns the Ten Commandments

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSOASlIiU>

Additional UCG Family Study Guides

<https://www.ucg.org/members/family-study-guides>

Classroom Activities

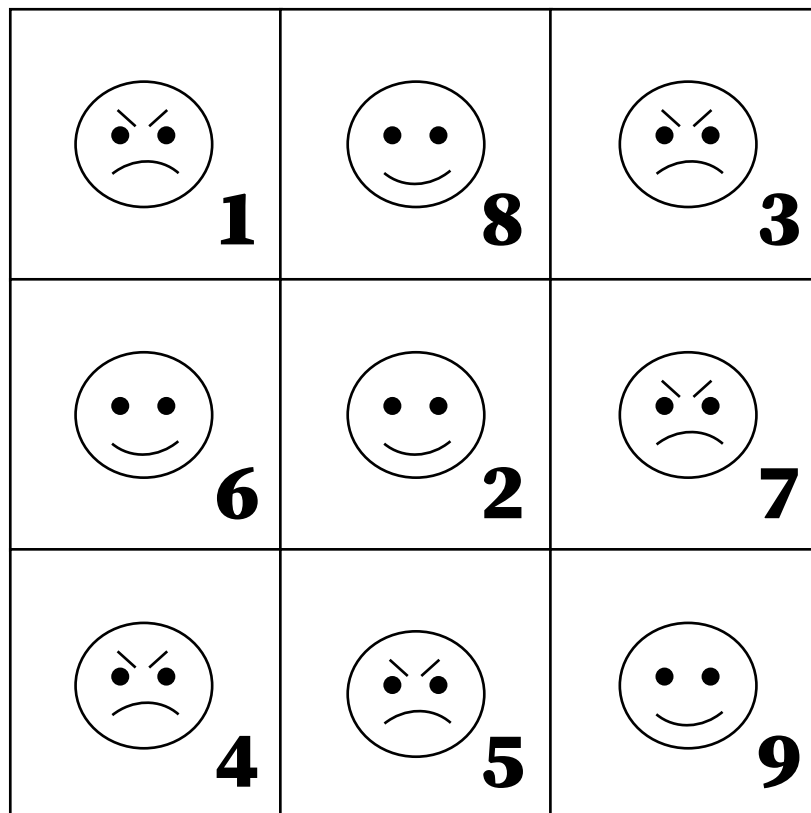
Ten Commandments Collage

Make two collages of pictures cut from newspapers or magazines. As you find them, cut and paste the photos on separate pieces of paper, one for those that show obedience to God's law and one for those that show disobedience. You can also identify which of the commandments each photo illustrates and how it affects people's lives.

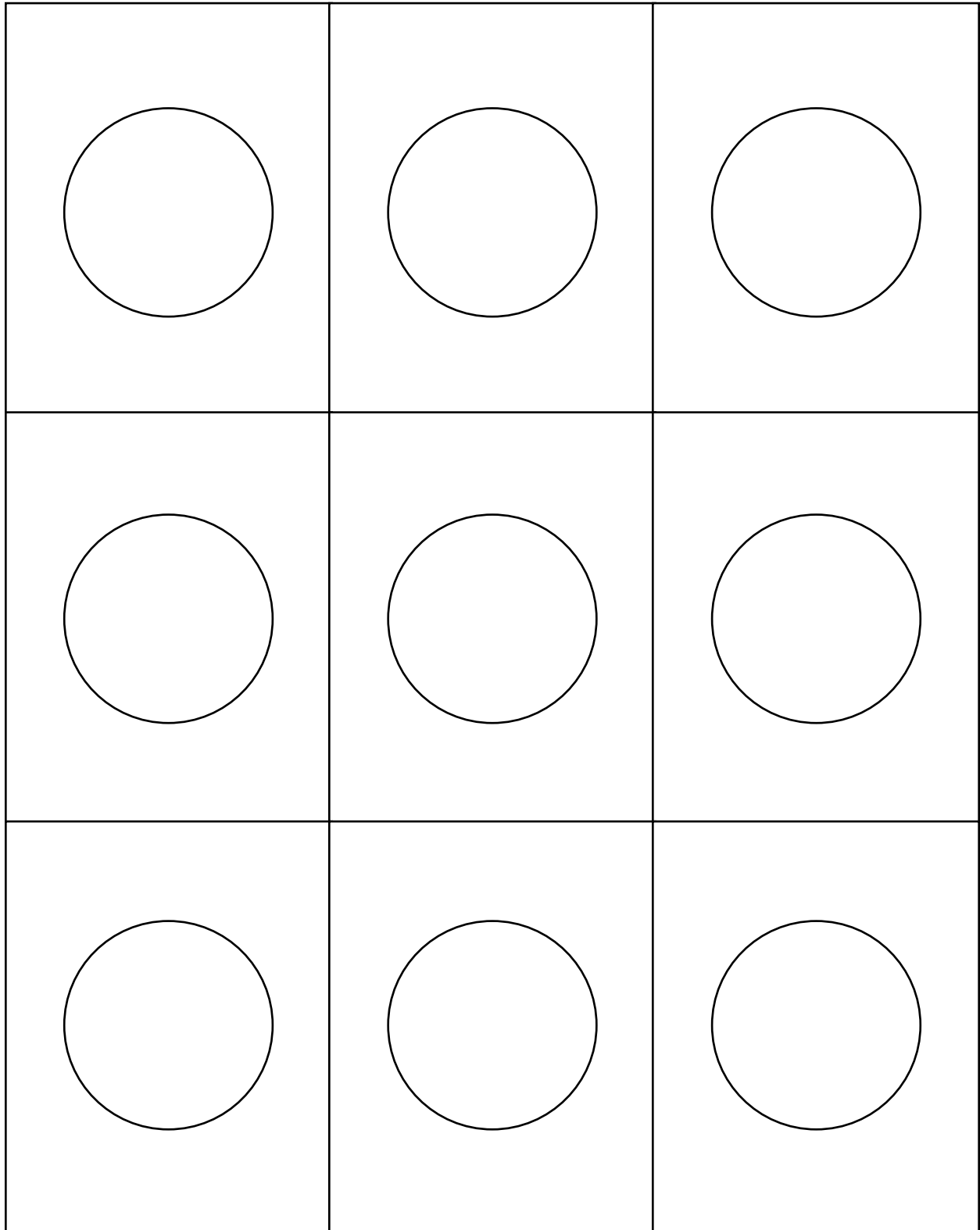
Ten Commandments Bingo

Included on page 11 is a bingo game you can play with the class or with the family. The game board has nine squares. Before playing the game, print several copies of the bingo sheet and add a face and a number to each square, as in the example below. The number stands for the commandment number and the face indicates whether the story read is keeping God's law (smile!) or breaking it (frown). Make as many boards (with different combinations of faces/numbers) as you have members to play.

You can use the stories listed on pages five and six of this study guide, or make up your own. Before you read a story, say which commandment it's talking about. Then read it and talk about how it either keeps that law or breaks it. Anyone who has that combination can put a marker in that square. For example, if the story shows obedience to the Fifth Commandment, anyone with a smiling 5 square can put a marker there. Use buttons or fun markers like M&M's to mark your boards. Play until someone fills a board, or gets three squares in a row.



Ten Commandments Bingo



Ten Commandments Song

Sing the following song. You can find a sing-along recording of the song on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T36hKL_p_Lw

“The Perfect Ten”

Number one we’ve just begun, God should be first in your life.
Number two’s the idol rule; those graven images aren’t nice.
Number three God’s name should be never spoken in jest.
Number four the Sabbath’s for our worship and for rest.
Number five we all should strive to honor father and mother.
Number six don’t get your kicks from killing one another.
Number seven life is heaven when you’re true to your mate.
Number eight don’t steal and break this rule for others’ sake.
Number nine don’t be the kind who goes around telling lies.
Number ten don’t covet when you see your neighbor’s house or wife.
That’s the list and God insists we stay away from these sins.
That is why we memorize commandments one through ten.
The perfect ten, the perfect ten. They’re just as true as they were way back when.
God gave the perfect ten, the perfect ten. God gave the perfect ten.

Optional: Have the children act it out, as we see in the video included above.

