



NOT ON OUR

WATCH

**June Family Discipleship Plan
10 Commandments- Exodus 20**

Introduction

We are going to embark on the journey of teaching kids the Ten Commandments. It is going to be a great time to teach them that the Lord gave us guidelines to follow to protect us. We want them to know that if we have Jesus in our hearts, these are attributes that we should possess. These are ultimately not the way to enter into a personal relationship with Jesus; these are the attributes we should possess as a result of our faith in him. They are our boundaries of happiness. These commandments are things God put in place so that we will live a happy life if we follow them. Our goal in life is to honor and glorify God, and these commandments are the way to do that. The 10 Commandments are a great place to begin the spiritual foundation of a child. We need to be careful not to teach legalism, meaning these are not the list of rules that are going to save them; they are guidelines we are to strive to emulate in our lives.

God made it clear that what He had to share was important, and the Israelites listened. They received the Ten Commandments, a wonderfully simple, but extremely challenging set of rules that became the basis of law in countries, communities, and households around the world, and across time. The wisdom of God applied to daily human life. It was revolutionary.

Let's help kids understand the importance of the Ten Commandments and the relevance they have in their lives today. God gave those Ten Commandments not only to the ancient Israelites but to all people, everywhere, in all generations.

At the beginning of each devotional, read Exodus 20:1-2, then read the verse specifically for that devotion. Follow up the verse with the paragraph explaining the commandment in detail. If time allows, or for older children, read all of Exodus 20:1-17 each time and then focus on the commandment you are on. This study is meant to be completed at your own pace. There are questions at the end of each paragraph to engage your family in conversation about how each commandment can be applied to your lives daily.

Commandment 1

Verse 3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

The First Commandment is to love God more than anything or anyone else. There is no one like God. He is the creator of all things. For him and by him, all things are created. All creation worships God. Therefore, we should have nothing we love more than God. There should be nothing in our lives we put before God. He is worthy of all we are and all we have. Therefore, we should have no other gods before him. God loves you so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross so He could be in heaven with you forever. He loves you more than anyone else. Because God loves you so much, He asks that you love Him in return. However, He wants you to love him more than you love anyone or anything else. What is something you love? Your toys? Your games? Sports? Dance? These are all things that sometimes we love more than we love God. We have to love the Lord with all of our hearts! We can show God we love him more than anything else by spending time in His Word, praying to Him, and by making church a priority.

- What have you loved more than God?
- What is a god you put before the one true God?
- How can you be better about this today?

Commandment 2

Verses 4-6 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or 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. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

The second commandment is to worship only God. When God gave these commandments to the Israelites, His chosen people, they had been in a place where the ONE TRUE GOD did not receive worship. But the Israelites had just seen in Egypt all that God had done to defeat the gods the Egyptians worshiped. God is mightier than any other God, and he had just proved it to them. God wanted them to know He was the only one worthy of their worship. Our God is MIGHTY. An idol is anything we put in God's place. It is anything we love or spend more time with than God. When we have idols in our lives, we are not putting God in his right place. He wanted them to worship only Him and no one else. God desires us to worship Him, which is what he created us to do. When you don't do what your parents ask you to do, they are sad. When we don't worship God or love Him more than anything, He is sad. Verse 5 says that God is a jealous God, and he longs for us to worship him. God loved His people, and God loves us. He knows what is best for us, and he wants us to obey him. He is the only one worthy of our worship. Let us not put anything above God.

- What are the idols in your life?
- What do you worship more than God?
- What keeps you from worshipping God?

Commandment 3

Verse 7 “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.

The third commandment is to speak nicely when using God’s name. I am sure you have heard your mom and dad say, “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.” The words that come out of our mouths can hurt people or make people feel good. Luke 6:45 says, “The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.” This verse means the things that come out of our mouth are a reflection of our heart. Therefore, what we say should be a reflection of Jesus in our hearts. Words are powerful. God wants the things we say about Him to be accurate and kind. God does not want our words to be hurtful or mean about who he is. Like sometimes, when we get mad, we may say things we do not expect. God wants everything we say about Him to be right and uplifting. Also, your name is important to you, right? It tells others who you are when they call you by name. Well, God feels the same way about His name. His name tells the world who He is, and if we say bad things about God’s name, we are making Him sad because we are not telling the truth. We are to speak God’s name in a way that shows how much He loves them.

- What are the true things you can say about God?
- What are the ways God’s name is misused?
- How can we lift up God’s name more?

Commandment 4

Verses 8-11 “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

The fourth commandment is to worship and rest on the Sabbath day. The Sabbath day is Sunday, which is when we all go to church. The church is an excellent thing because you get to see all of your friends and learn about God. Isn’t it fun to learn about God and how much He loves you? When we go to church, we are in God’s house, which makes Him happy when we come to learn about Him. The church is also a place where people who believe in Jesus gather together. The church is a place where they can share what they are learning about Jesus, and it’s a place where people can help them if they are having a hard time. God also tells us to REST on the Sabbath. God knows that sometimes life can get busy. Do you play t-ball? Do you dance? Do you play soccer? These are all things that make life hectic. When we are busy, God knows we need to stop and take a break because we need to rest. God wants us to rest from being busy sometimes because we need to bring our focus back to Him. Rest does not always mean taking a nap. Resting means we need to stop our busy schedule and just focus on Jesus. Sometimes, it just means we need to spend some time with our family. So, God tells us that

church is a great place to come and learn about Him. He also wants us to rest from our busy lives and refocus on Him.

- Why do you like going to church?
- What does it mean to rest?
- How can you spend a better time together as a family?

Commandment 5

Verse 12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

The fifth commandment is to love your mommy and daddy. Do your mom and dad ever ask you to do things you may not want to do? They may ask you to clean your room or pick up your clothes. Those things may not be enjoyable for you, but God tells us to love our mom and dad. Loving them means doing what they ask you to do, even if you do not want to. Some of you may not live with your mom and dad. Some of you may live with your grandparents. This applies to them, too. Whoever takes care of you is the one you are supposed to love and honor. Your mom and dad and grandparents love you very much, and they want what is best for you. That’s why you have rules in your house so that you do not hurt yourselves. They also provide for all you need. What if you didn’t have anyone to cook your dinner tonight? What if there was no one there to wash your clothes? You might be pretty hungry, and you wouldn’t have any clothes to wear!! Your mom and dad or grandparents do great things for you, so you should show them how thankful you are by loving them and doing what they ask you to do. Parents are a blessing from the Lord. They protect us and love us, and we need to show them we are thankful by honoring them and loving them back.

- How can you show your parents you love them?
- What’s something you can do for your parents today?
- What is something you wish your parents knew about you?

Commandment 6

Verse 13 “You shall not murder.

The sixth commandment is never to hurt anyone. God does not want us to hurt our friends. God made people special. God created people in His image. Which means we need to treat people with this same kind of love and respect. Murder is taking someone’s life, and when we take their life, we are not giving them the love and respect God wants us to. Jesus takes this commandment one step further and says, “But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment.” Jesus means that even when we are angry with someone, we have broken his commandments. We always need to remember how we feel when we are hurt and know that we would never want our friends to feel that way. These commandments are all about teaching us how to love God and love others better.

- When was the last time you were angry with someone?
- How could you have handled that situation differently?
- How can we treat people in a way that reflects the image of God inside them?

Commandment 7

Verse 14 "You shall not commit adultery.

The seventh commandment is to love one husband or one wife. When two people marry, they are to love each other forever, and they are only to love each other. They are to be faithful to each other and treasure each other. When God created people, He knew we needed each other to make it through life. Marriage is a symbol that God uses to show the love between Christ and the church. Marriage is an unbreakable bond. Now, just like all the other commandments we have talked about, there are times when we do not obey them. There will be times when people fall short. No one is perfect. However, there is a way that God intended marriage to happen. But aren't we all thankful for the blood and grace of Jesus. Even when we mess up and fall short, he still loves us and covers us with his blood. There will be times when marriage does not last. However, God restores and redeems and makes beauty out of hard things.

- How can we show grace to each other in our family?
- How can we better represent Christ to the world as a family?
- When we fall short and disobey God's commandments, what should be our next step?

Commandment 8

Verse 15 "You shall not steal.

The eighth commandment is never to steal. Have you ever had something taken from you? Did you ever get it back? How did that make you feel? Have you ever stolen something from someone else? Did you feel bad about what you had done? Stealing or taking something from someone is not what God wants of us. God does not want us to take things that are not ours. God has given all of us plenty of stuff, and He provides for all of our needs. When we steal or take something, we are telling God He is not doing an excellent job of providing for us, and we are trying to take matters into our own hands. When we try to be God, bad things happen. Imagine you want to try to be a superhero. Most superheroes can fly, but can you fly? If you wanted to fly, you would probably fall on your face. See what happens when we try to be something we are not? If we decide to fly, we could get hurt. When we try to be God, we are trusting in ourselves, and we will always fall short. Stealing takes matters into our own hands when we should be trusting God with our lives.

- How have you seen God provide all of your needs?
- Have you been tempted to take something that did not belong to you?
- How is stealing taking things into your own hands?

Commandment 9

Verse 16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

The ninth commandment is never to lie and always tell the truth. Have you ever told someone something that was not true? Have you ever said anything that was not true? Lying is telling someone something that is not true. When we lie, we get ourselves in trouble because we have made a person believe something that is not true. Jesus said, "I am the way, the TRUTH, and the life." (John 14:6) To lie is the opposite of what Jesus wants us to do! If we believe in Jesus, we are to tell the truth, because that is pleasing to Him. Sometimes our desire to lie comes from the fact that we think if we tell the truth, we will be in more trouble, so we lie. However, lying puts us in a whole new position. Telling the truth no matter if it gets you in trouble is always better than telling a lie. Always remember that telling the truth is what God wants you to do.

- When you do not tell the truth, how does that make you feel?
- Have you been tempted to tell a lie because you thought telling the truth would get you in trouble?
- How is lying that opposite of what Jesus wants us to do?

Commandment 10

Verse 17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

The tenth commandment is to be happy and thankful for all you have. What is something you are grateful to have? Are there times when you want something you do not have? Do your friends have toys you do not have? Sometimes we want things we do not have, and we become ungrateful for the things God has given us. God has provided all we need and some of what we want. He wants us to be grateful for what we have because He has given us those things. When we want more and more things, we forget about all God has done for us, and we forget about him. God wants us to always remember Him. When we live in a constant state of ungratefulness, we are never satisfied with what God has so graciously given us. We need to live a life of thankfulness because it is only because of God that we have anything. Appreciation shows God that we realize he is the one who provides for our needs. Thankfulness removes the desire to have everything everyone else has. Things do not satisfy us. Jesus is the only one who can truly satisfy us. We want to be thankful for what He has given us and not always want more.

- When was the last time you wanted something that a friend had?
- When you see people with things you do not have, how does it make you feel?
- How can you be more thankful for what God has given you?