



Week 1 // Ten Commandments

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Big Idea from the Message

In order to play the game well, you have to know the rules. When God graciously called the descendants of Abraham to be his special people, he gave them the Ten Commandments so that they might know how to *live* as His people.

Connect

1. One of the more popular uses of the number 10 in pop culture was in David Letterman's famous 'Top 10 Lists' that he used on his Late Show on a nightly basis. Find a category and have everyone share their Top 10 (or for the sake of time maybe 3 or 5) of something. Examples are Top 10 movies, Restaurants, vacation spots, etc.
2. Think about your top answer(s). What was the main reason for that being at the top of the list over the other choices?

Digging Deeper

3. Why do we have rules? What is the alternative? Is there ever an instance when a lack of rules was a better option than having rules?

This week, we are looking at the 10 Commandments. This set of 'rules' help set the boundaries for how people are to relate to God and to each other. Read Exodus 20:1-17.

4. How would our lives improve if we followed these commands? How would our relationships improve if we followed these commands?
5. Which of the commandments stand out to you as a struggle and need for emphasis in your context? How does that issue/commandment impact you regularly?
6. What is God's expectation for our life in relationship to these Commandments? What is our expectation for ourselves in relationship to these Commandments?

7. God did not just provide a set of rules to follow. He also provided a way to atone for the mistakes we make. What was that way out for the Israelites?

Live It Out

8. God gave us the guide/rule to live by in the Commandments. He also understood that we would fall short so gave us a way out through sacrifice (ultimately the sacrifice of Jesus Christ). This created a way for to be absolved of our sins. In our practice, before we receive absolution, what comes first? Why is this so important in dealing with the times we fall short and why is this so hard for us to do?
9. God asks us to obey his commands. First so that we may receive the most possible joy and peace in our life. Secondly, he hopes for the presence of these commandments in our life to impact the life of those around us. How is this possible and what responsibility does this put on us?
10. How can we ultimately see the 10 Commandments as a gift out of love and not something handed down by a killjoy God?

Lifting it up

- Ask God to give you a clear understanding of who he is. Pray that in all circumstances, you see his goodness and love on display.
- Pray for strength to obey the commands of our God that were given to us out of his love for us.
- Welcome the opportunities we have to let our life be an example for those around us as we aim to follow God.