

Sunday 14th April 2024
The 10 Commandments 1: Love God
Commandments 1-4

Welcome

- Do you like to obey rules? What rules don't you like? What would life be like without rules?
- If you were king/queen of a new country, what rules would you have?

Word

Read Exodus 20: 1-17

1. What stands out as you hear the law delivered?
2. What is important about the context of the commandments as set by God in verse 2?
3. The first 4 commandments (verses 3-11) focus on God. Why should they come first? What is the unifying theme of these commands about God?

Read Exodus 20: 18-21

4. In verses 18-19 the Israelites fall back in fear from the manifestations of God's presence. Is fear a positive reaction to the laws of God?
5. How exactly is God testing the Israelites? (v20)
6. Of the first 4 commandments (v3-11) which presents the greatest challenge to you?

Commandment 1 (Exodus 20:3)

I am the Lord your God, don't worship any other gods.

7. Almost anything can be a 'god' – from your observation, what 'gods' are most popular today?
8. What are the implications of placing this commandment first?

Commandment 2 (Exodus 20: 4-6)

Do not make or worship any idols.

9. What are the idols of our day?
10. Has there ever been a time in your life that you desired something more than anything else in the world? What was it and what happened when you got it (or didn't get it)?
11. What is the difference between the first and second commandment?
12. What do you think is meant by a 'jealous' god (v5)?
13. Why might this sin affect future generations (v5-6)?

Commandment 3 (Exodus 20: 7)

Do not misuse God's name.

14. What do you think this commandment means?
15. How is this 3rd commandment related to the first 2?
16. Are there ways in which we misuse God's name, even in subtle ways?

Commandment 4 (Exodus 20:8-11)

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy

This commandment is linked to the first three because it continues to show us how we should 'love God'. We will, however, revisit this Commandment another week to discuss it further.

General Questions:

17. Ever since Jesus, we as Christians now live under grace not law. To what extent should the 10 commandments feature in our lives?
18. How can we as Christians live in a way that reflects God's rule in our lives?
19. The Israelites were meant to be a model to the other surrounding nations. Should the Church (or our church) be an example to the surrounding community and if so, what are the top values or principles we should be modelling?

Optional Extra

Read Mark 12: 28-34 compare this with Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

20. What is Jesus teaching about God here? Why is it so important?
21. What does Jesus mean by saying that you are to love God “with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength”?
22. How is the questioner still not ‘in’ the kingdom of God (v 34)? What does he need to do to be fully included?
23. Is Jesus ‘commanding’ us to love here? IS it possible to be ‘told’ to love?
24. Does loving God help us to love others? How?

These verses are the basis of ‘Our Intention’ as a Church:

“Love God, Love Others.”

Worship & Witness

- Remember to pray for those people on our frontline who God has placed on your heart.
- Spend a moment reflecting on whether you have any other gods or idols in your life.
- How can you ensure that you respect God in everything you say and do?

10 Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God, don't worship any other gods.
2. Do not make or worship any idols.
3. Do not misuse God's name.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
5. Respect your parents.
6. Do not kill.
7. Do not commit adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not lie.
10. Do not be envious.