

Let the Journey Begin

a study in the book of Exodus

The Ten Commandments - Exodus 20:1-21

Lesson 19

We have arrived at a well-known portion of the Bible – The giving of the Ten Commandments. The law was never given as a way of salvation. Salvation is not a reward for good works but the gift of God through faith in Jesus Christ. The Law reveals God's righteousness and demands righteousness, but it can't give righteousness; only Jesus Christ can do that. As you study, may you understand God's intentions for these commandments in a deeper way.

Read Exodus 20:1-21

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *LORD/God* and the children of Israel.

Key Words: *LORD/God, Moses, Egypt/house of bondage*, and words that refer to the children of Israel

3. List the Ten Commandments

Read Exodus 20:1-17 The Ten Commandments

1. Before the LORD gave the commandments to His people, He reminded them of what He had done for them. What did He say?
 - a. Why might it have been important to remind them?

The first 4 commandments are related to our relationship with the LORD.

- What is the 1st commandment (Exodus 20:3)?

Failure to obey this command is called idolatry. Read the words of Deuteronomy 6:14 and share how they might apply to us in modern day "idolatries".

- What is the 2nd commandment (Exodus 20:4-6)?

What three things did the LORD say about Himself in verses 5 and 6?

Record the reassuring words of Deuteronomy 24:16 that give further understanding to the last phrase of verse 5.

- What is the 3rd commandment (Exodus 20:7)?

What does Leviticus 19:12 add to your understanding?

Record the last phrase of Exodus 20:7

Bask in the glorious words of Psalm 86:5 as you record them.

What are your thoughts knowing that, as a believer, God will forgive you of your sins?

- What is the 4th commandment (Exodus 20:8-11)?

What further instructions did the LORD give regarding *remembering and keeping the Sabbath day*?

What would be the benefits of *remembering and keeping the Sabbath day* (or setting aside one day a week) for a New Testament believer?

What did Jesus say about Himself regarding *the Sabbath* in Matthew 12:8?

Challenge: Read the story recorded in Matthew 12:1-8 and explain your understanding of what Jesus meant.

The last 6 commandments are related to our relationship with others

- What is the 5th commandment (Exodus 20:12)?

What do you think it means to *honor* parents?

Record the words of Ephesians 6:1-3.

What promise follows this commandment?

- What is the 6th commandment (Exodus 20:13)?

Define the word *murder*.

Jesus carefully explained the heart of this commandment in Matthew 5:21-26. What did He say?

In what way is *anger* related to *murder*?

- What is the 7th commandment (Exodus 20:14)?

Define *adultery*.

Again, Jesus carefully explained the heart of this commandment in Matthew 5:27-30. What did He say?

In what way are lustful thoughts related to adultery?

- What is the 8th commandment (Exodus 20:15)?

What is the solution to stealing according to Ephesians 4:28?

Consider the words of Proverbs 11:1 and write them as they might apply to us today.

- What is the 9th commandment (Exodus 20:16)?

What are some different ways that we can violate this command?

Using your own words, define the following:

slander

talebearing

inappropriate silence

creating a false impression

- What is the 10th commandment (Exodus 20:17)?

Define the word *covet*.

Record the words of Hebrews 13:5.

How does reminding ourselves of the Lord's *presence* help deter *coveting*?

Reflection on the Ten commandments

1. Several of these commandments are related to *honoring*. Describe a life that honors God and honors others.

2. What do the following verses teach about the *law*?

Romans 3:20

Galatians 2:16

Galatians 3:11

3. What would you say to someone who asked you about the purpose of the Ten Commandments?

Read Exodus 20:18-21 The People Fear God's Presence

1. The people *witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off.* What did they say to Moses?

a. What did Moses say to the people?

1.) In what ways does a healthy *fear of the LORD* help us to *not sin*?

Review Exodus 20:1-21

1. Obedience of the Ten Commandments are not God's requirement for salvation. What is their value in your life?

Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil.

- Proverbs 3:7

Observation Worksheet

Exodus 20:1-26 And God spoke all these words, saying: ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. ³ You shall have no other gods before Me. 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 nor 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 fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. 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. ⁸ "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 the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³ "You shall not murder. ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ "You shall not steal. ¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷ "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." ¹⁸ Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." ²⁰ And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear; for God has come to test you, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." ²¹ So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.