

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS GIVEN AT MT. SINAI

### Exodus 19

In the third month after the Israelites had been freed from their slavery in the land of Egypt, they completed their journey to Mt. Sinai. Locate this mountain on a map and notice the awesome events which took place there:

#### A. The People's Agreement with God: Read Exodus 19:1-9

1. What did God tell His people He wanted them to do? Exodus 19:5a  
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2. What did God promise He would make of them if they would do this? Exodus 19:5b, 6a  
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3. What was the people's reply to God's offer? Exodus 19:8  
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#### B. The People Prepared to Receive the Commandments: Read Exodus 19:10-20

1. Notice that God did not give His commandments in an ordinary way, as just another step in the regular routine of the people's life. Instead, He required them to make extensive preparation for receiving them. What two things were they to do? Exodus 19:10, 12  
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2. What would show about the people as compared with God? (*THINK!*)  
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3. Notice that God also did several things Himself in the world of nature before He gave the commandments. List what the people saw and heard. Exodus 19:16a, 19:18a, 19:18b, 19:19a  
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4. What would these signs make the people realize about God? (*THINK!*)  
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#### C. God's Method of Giving the Commandments:

1. In what form was God going to come down? Exodus 19:9  
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2. Who would be able to see Him? Exodus 19:11  
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3. How was God going to give His commandments to the people? Exodus 19:9, 19, 20:1  
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#### D. The Ten Commandments Given:

1. What six words did God use in introducing the Ten Commandments? Exodus 20:2  
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2. Pretend that you are at Mt. Sinai, seeing all that took place there, and hearing the voice of God speaking from the top of the mountain. Now read the Ten Commandments as they were given then, from Exodus 20:1-17
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**E. The People's Reaction:** Read Exodus 20:18-21

1. How did the people feel when they saw God's wonders? Exodus 19:16b, 20:18  

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2. What were they afraid might happen to them if God continued speaking with them? Exodus 20:19  

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3. For what two reasons did God want them to feel this way? Exodus 20:20b  

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4. How long would you think the people would remember what they saw and heard that day?  

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**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Do I fully realize the tremendous power and absolute holiness of God?  

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2. Do I have a fear of God which keeps me from consciously sinning?  

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Before you begin your study of the individual commandments, read the following to get an overall picture of them:

- A. What are the Ten Commandments?** The Ten Commandments are the *moral* laws which God gave to His people as their rules for living. They are not to be confused with the *civil* laws (for national government) and the *ceremonial* laws (for worship) which were given at about the same time.
- B. What was the purpose for the Ten Commandments?** Three answers might be given:
1. Obviously, they were principles which could help the people in their everyday relationships: to God, first of all, and also to their fellow men.
  2. They also give the people an accurate picture of the true nature of God, by showing His absolute righteousness and His extreme holiness. As long as they remembered these attributes of God, they would reverence and fear Him, and thus be afraid to disobey Him. "...That His fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not." (Exodus 20:20)
  3. The Ten Commandments also showed the people how sinful they themselves were (Romans 3:20, 7:7-14). The law is like a mirror. We can look into a mirror and see that our faces are dirty, but we do not use the mirror to *wash* our faces. Just so, the people could look at the law, and see that their hearts were dirty with sin, but the law did not cleanse their hearts. It took faith in the grace and mercy of God to cleanse them. See James 1:22-25; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5.
- C. How are the Ten Commandments Related to Us Today?** Basically, "the law is our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ." (Galatians 3:24) Some earnest Christians would say that the Ten Commandments are not for us after we are saved, because they are in the Old Testament and are a part of the Mosaic Law, but these people would teach the principles behind the Ten Commandments as they are found in the New Testament, and would seek to live according to these principles. Those Christians who would seek to keep the Ten Commandments do it *not* in order to *be* saved, nor because they are in bondage to them, but because they *are* saved, and they desire to please the Almighty God, whose will these commandments express.

Notice that the Ten Commandments are based on the character of God, which never changes. They tell us how God wants people to feel and act toward Him (with great reverence) and toward other people (with utmost respect). There will never come a time when God will cease to desire that we have reverence for Him and respect for our fellow men. Therefore, God's will for us regarding these two relationships is the same as it was for those who first received the law. Notice that the *civil* laws as such passed away when the nation Israel was carried into captivity (although many of the principles of those laws are used throughout the world even today) and the *ceremonial* laws, which looked forward to the coming of Christ, were not needed after the One Whom they foreshadowed had come. But the *moral* laws can never pass away, since they are based on eternal principles.

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Jesus said that He came not to destroy the law, but to fulfill it (Matthew 5:17). He is the only One Who ever was able to keep all of the commandments perfectly.

The New Testament repeats all but one of the Ten, (the fourth), and the principle behind that one is given. Note this as you study the following pages.

## THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

### Exodus 20:3

**“Thou shall have no other gods before Me.”**

**A. The Command Itself:** Read Exodus 20:1-3

1. In giving this command, what place did God demand for Himself in the life of each of His people? (See Deuteronomy 6:5)

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2. For what two reasons did God have a right to expect obedience from them?

- a. Genesis 1:27 \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Exodus 20:2 \_\_\_\_\_

**B. An Old Testament Example:** Daniel as one of the Hebrews who was carried captive to the land of Babylon. Read Daniel 6 and notice how he was tempted to break the first commandment while he was in that land:

1. What two kinds of leaders did the nation Babylon have? Daniel 6:1, 2

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2. What kind of leader was Daniel? Daniel 6:2

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3. Why was Daniel chosen for this position? Daniel 6:3

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4. Who tried to find fault with Daniel? Daniel 6:4

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5. What was the only fault they could find? Daniel 6:5

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6. What law did they get the king to pass? Daniel 6:7, 9

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7. What did Daniel do when he knew that this law had been passed? Daniel 6:10

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8. What would his punishment have to be? Daniel 6:12

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9. Did the king want to punish him? Daniel 6:14

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10. What did the king say to him when he put him into the lion's den? Daniel 6:16

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11. What did God do to reward Daniel for refusing to worship anyone except the true God? Daniel 6:22

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12. How did the king punish the men who plotted against Daniel? Daniel 6:24

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13. What did the king learn about the true God because of Daniel's stand?  
Daniel 6:26

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**C. The Command in the New Testament:**

1. How did Jesus state this first commandment in the New Testament? Matthew 22:37;  
Luke 1:27

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2. How did He describe this commandment? Matthew 22:38

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**D. The Command in Present Day Life:**

1. What *is* a god? (Use your dictionary, ask people, and *THINK!*)

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2. Do people in civilized countries today worship gods other than the true God? (*THINK!*)

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**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Does God have a right to absolute supremacy in *my* life (See Acts 17:24a, 23a; 1  
Corinthians 6:19b, 20)

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2. Am I guilty of putting some persons or some things before God in my life? (See Romans  
1:18, 25)

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## THE SECOND COMMANDMENT

### Exodus 20:4

**“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.”**

**A. The Command Itself:** Read Exodus 20:4-6

1. Notice that there are three parts to this command:
  - a. Exodus 20:4a: “Thou shalt not \_\_\_\_\_ graven images.”
  - b. Exodus 20:5a: “Thou shalt not \_\_\_\_\_ them.”
  - c. Exodus 20:5a: “Nor \_\_\_\_\_ them.”
2. Why are we told that it is especially important to keep this command? Exodus 20:5b, 6

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**B. An Old Testament Example:** Read Daniel 3:1-30

1. How did Nebuchadnezzar break the second commandment? Daniel 3:1

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2. What law did he make concerning his image? Daniel 3:5

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3. What would be the punishment for anyone who broke this law? Daniel 3:6

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4. Who were the only ones who dared not to keep this law? Daniel 3:7, 12

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5. When Nebuchadnezzar, in spite of his rage and fury, offered to give them another chance to worship the image, did they do it? Daniel 3:13-18

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6. What did they hope God would do for them? Daniel 3:17

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7. Even if God did not do this for them, were they willing to worship the idol? Daniel 3:18

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8. How did Nebuchadnezzar feel when he heard their decision? Daniel 3:19

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9. What happened to the men who threw them into the furnace? Daniel 3:22

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10. What happened to the three who were thrown into the furnace? Daniel 3:25

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11. After this, how was Nebuchadnezzar's attitude toward God changed?  
Daniel 3:28, 29

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12. How were the three friends rewarded for refusing to worship an image? Daniel 3:30

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**C. The Command in the New Testament:**

1. What does God say about idolatry through the Apostle John in the New Testament?

1John 5:21

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2. Notice several reasons why idolatry is wrong:

- a. 2 Corinthians 4:4: *Christ* is the image of God. Any image would be a substitute for Christ.
- b. 2 Corinthians 5:7: The use of an image would indicate that a person is walking by *sight*, which is the direct opposite of walking by *faith*.
- c. 1 Corinthians 10:19, 20: God through Paul says that all idolatry is worship of the devil, rather than worship of God.

3. What did Jesus say is the correct way to worship God? John 4:23, 24
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**D. The Command in Present Day Life:**

1. Someone has said that an idol can be manufactured by human reasoning as well as by wood or stone. Name some idols *we* are tempted to worship.
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2. Around whom are *all* of these centered? (See Philippians 2:21; Romans 16:18a; 2 Corinthians 5:15 and 2Timothy 3:2a)
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**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Am I guilty of serving myself more than I serve God? (See Romans 1:18, 25)
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2. Do I *believe* God enough to be able to worship Him in spirit and in truth, without the use of any physical object? (See Hebrews 11:27)
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## THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

### Exodus 20:7

**“Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.”**

**A. The Command Itself:** Read Exodus 20:7

1. What are two words that we commonly use to describe the breaking of this command?  
Matthew 26:74

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2. Look up in a dictionary the meaning of the word “vain”. Notice that to use the Lord’s name in vain would be to use it flippantly, lightly, deceitfully, or profanely; in an empty or meaningless fashion.

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**B. An Old Testament Example:** A man who was half Israelite and half Egyptian did not obey this command once. Read what happened to him in Leviticus 24:10-16.

1. What was this man doing? Leviticus 24:10

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2. In what two ways did he sin? Leviticus 24:11

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3. What two things did they do with the man?

- a. Leviticus 24:11 \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Leviticus 24:12 \_\_\_\_\_

4. Who was to decide what his punishment would be? Leviticus 24:12, 13

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5. What punishment was assigned to him? Leviticus 24:14b, 16a (See Romans 6:23)

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6. Who was to help carry out this punishment? Leviticus 24:14b, c

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**C. The Command in the New Testament:**

1. What did Jesus say about this command in the New Testament? Matthew 5:34-37

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2. Notice how James condensed these words in his letter: James 5:12

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**D. The Command in Present Day Life:**

1. Why do people who swear usually do so? (*THINK!*)

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2. If one feels he has to swear on certain occasions, what might that prove about his ordinary conversation? (*THINK!*)
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3. Are we taking God's name in vain when we:
- listen to others take His name in vain and laugh at them or make a show of them?
  - use words that are taken from God's name, such as Lordy, golly, gosh, gee, Holy Moses, Holy Cow, gracious, law, Amen, etc.? (See Matthew 5:37)
  - tell dirty jokes, or joke about God and His Word, baptism, etc.?
  - sing songs we don't mean? or sacrilegious songs?
  - pray just to be heard, when we don't really mean it?
  - pray selfishly, instead of for God's glory?
  - make useless repetition of God's name in prayer? (Think--would you use your friend's name that often in conversation?)
  - profess Christianity, but don't live it?
4. Notice what the proper attitude toward the name of the Lord would be:
- Psalm 148:13: "Praise the name of the Lord."
  - Psalm 100:4: "Bless His name."
  - Psalm 66:2: "Sing forth the honor of His name."
  - Psalm 34:3: "Exalt His name."
  - Psalm 111:9: "Holy and reverent is His name."

### **QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Do I refrain from all wrong usage of the Lord's name? (See Exodus 20:7b)
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2. Do I have an attitude of utmost reverence and love for the Lord's name?
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## THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

### Exodus 20:8

**“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.”**

#### **A. The Sabbath in the Old Testament:**

1. When did God first set aside the Sabbath day? Exodus 20:11; Genesis 2:13  
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2. The word “Sabbath” comes from the Hebrew word meaning “to rest from labor”. What was the original purpose for this day? Genesis 2:1, 2  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What kind of day was it to be? Genesis 2:3a, Exodus 20:11b  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. When the nation Israel was being formed, the Sabbath took on a new significance. Between what people was it now to be a sign? Exodus 31:13-17  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. For whose benefit was the Sabbath ordained? Mark 2:27  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **B. Old testament Stories About the Sabbath:**

1. What did one man do to break the Sabbath? Numbers 15:32-34  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What punishment did God say should be given him? Numbers 15:35, 36  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When God gave the manna in the wilderness, what happened when some of the people tried to keep it overnight? Exodus 16:20  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What happened when they kept it over to eat on the Sabbath day? Exodus 16:23, 24  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What happened when some went out to gather it on the Sabbath day? Exodus 16:26, 27  
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#### **C. The “Sabbath” in the New Testament:**

1. On what day of the week did the disciples come together for their meetings? Acts 20:7  
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2. Did it seem to be habitual for them to observe this day? 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What had happened on this day to cause them to observe it instead of the seventh day? Mark 16:1-6  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. When did they begin observing the first day of the week? John 20:19, 26
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**D. The Relation of This Command to Present Day Life:**

1. Although most Christians do not observe the seventh day of the week in our day, for what two purposes might it appear to be God's will that we should set aside one day out of every seven?
  - a. Exodus 20:11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Hebrews 10:25 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Read Matthew 12:1-13. Notice that Jesus approved of and did four types of work on the Sabbath day:
  - a. Works of Necessity: Matthew 12:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Works of Emergency: Matthew 12:11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Works of Mercy: Matthew 12:10-13 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Service to God: Matthew 12:5; Mark 1:21 \_\_\_\_\_

This might be a guide as to how Christians today should spend their Sundays.

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Is my Sunday observed in a way that would be pleasing to God?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Is Sunday a day of rest and worship for me?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. About Whom do my Sunday activities and thoughts revolve?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Is all the work which I do on Sunday *really* necessary? Or could I arrange to do it some other day if I really wanted to  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Do I plan my week so that only works of necessity, emergency, mercy, and service to God must be done on Sunday? (See Isaiah 58:13, 14)  
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## THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

### Exodus 20:12

“Honor thy father and thy mother.”

**A. The Command in the Old Testament:** Read Exodus 20:12

1. Notice that in giving this command, God makes a definite promise to those who keep it. What is this promise? Exodus 20:12

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2. What did God later say was to be the penalty for breaking this command? Deuteronomy 21:18-21

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**B. An Example of Obedience:** Read Exodus 1:22-2:10

1. When the king ordered all boy babies to be killed, how did Miriam help in saving her brother's life? Exodus 2:4, 7, 8

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2. Was this honoring or dishonoring her parents? Why?

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3. How might the future of the whole nation of Israel have been affected if Miriam had not helped her parents at this time? (*THINK!*)

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**C. An Example of Disobedience:**

1. When David was king, how did his son Absalom dishonor him? 2 Samuel 15:2-6, 10

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2. What was David afraid Absalom would do to him? 2 Samuel 15:14

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3. Because Absalom allowed his greed and selfishness to keep him from honoring his father, what three things finally happened to him?

- a. 2 Samuel 18:9, 10

- b. 2 Samuel 18:14, 15

- c. 2 Samuel 18:17

**D. The Command in the New Testament:**

1. What should children do besides *honor* their parents? Ephesians 6:1-3

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2. What other people besides our parents should we honor and obey? Romans 13:1-4; Hebrews 13:17a

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3. What is one way we can honor these people? 1 Timothy 2:1, 2
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**E. The Command in Present Day Life:**

1. What is one characteristic of the heathen which God through Paul warned would be increasingly true of \_\_\_\_\_ people in the last days? (Compare Romans 1:30 with 2 Timothy 3:1, 2)
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2. What is the two-fold command which God gives to parents concerning their children? Ephesians 6:4
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3. What should parents constantly keep in mind when giving commands to their children? Hebrews 13:17b
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4. Are we honoring our parents if we:
- a. broadcast their faults to others? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. criticize them before others, including our own children after we are grown? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. adopt the common attitude toward mothers-in-law? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. allow their way of life to make us cold, critical, and indifferent toward them? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. fail to uphold the standards taught us by Christian parents? \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Do I give the respect and obedience which is due to my parents, teachers, and officials in the government?
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2. If God gave me what I *deserved*, would I live a long life or would I be stoned to death?
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## THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT

### Exodus 20:13

“Thou shall not kill.”

#### A. The Command Itself:

1. This command is more accurately translated, “Thou shall do no murder.” The word “kill” to us might mean either to kill a man or to kill an animal. However, in the Hebrew language, this was not so. Different words were used in each case. The word here used means to kill a human being.
2. “Murder” implies intentional killing for vengeance.

#### B. The Command in the Old Testament:

1. Years before the Ten Commandments were given, what penalty had God set for the sin of murder? (See Genesis 9:5, 6a)

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why was such a high value placed upon the life of a man? Genesis 9:6b

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#### C. Old Testament Examples: Read Genesis 4:1-16

1. Who was the first to break this command? Genesis 4:2-8

\_\_\_\_\_

2. For what two reasons did he commit this sin?

a. 1 John 3:12b \_\_\_\_\_

b. 1 John 3:12a \_\_\_\_\_

3. What was his punishment for this sin?

a. Genesis 4:11 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Genesis 4:12a \_\_\_\_\_

c. Genesis 4:12b \_\_\_\_\_

4. What two things made Joseph's brothers want to murder him?

Genesis 37:4, 11

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#### D. The Command in the New Testament:

1. Whom did John say was a murderer? 1 John 3:15

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2. What did Jesus say about this command? Matthew 5:21, 22

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3. Where does murder always come from? Matthew 15:19; Proverbs 4:23

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**E. The Command in Present Day Life:**

1. Who has been ordained of God to carry out the death penalty for murderers? Romans 13:3, 4  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Are those who carry out the death penalty guilty of breaking the sixth commandment? (*THINK!*)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The term used to describe the taking of life as a penalty for wrongdoing is "capital punishment". Look up the word "capital" in a dictionary to discover the origin of this term.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In what other instance is it usually considered possible for a man to kill another man without breaking this commandment? (See Joshua 6:3, 17, 21)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Notice several ways people today commonly break this command:
  - a. By losing their temper. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. By harboring hatred in their hearts. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. By becoming discouraged. Discouragement is suicide. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. By worrying people to death. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. By knowingly selling spoiled or diseased foods. \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. By selling liquor. \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Do I have the seeds of murder or of suicide in my heart?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Am I in any way contributing to the murder of any human being?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

### Exodus 20:14

**“Thou shalt not commit adultery.”**

#### A. The Command Itself:

1. Two words are commonly used to describe sins of impurity:
  - a. Fornication: Entering into marriage relationships when one is not married.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Adultery: Breaking the marriage vow of faithfulness to one's own wife or husband. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why is this such a terrible sin? 1 Corinthians 6:18  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What punishment was given for this sin? Deuteronomy 22:22-24  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### B. An Old Testament Example: Read Genesis 39:1-21

1. Who tempted Joseph to commit this sin? Genesis 39:7, 8  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Against Whom did Joseph say he would be sinning if he yielded to this temptation? Genesis 39:9  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Did Joseph's positive answer end his temptations? Genesis 39:10,12  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did Joseph keep from committing this sin? Genesis 39:2, 3  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### C. The Command in the New Testament:

1. How did Jesus say one could commit this sin?
  - a. Matthew 5:32 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Matthew 5:27, 28 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What two members of the body does Jesus mention as being particular offenders in breaking this commandment?
  - a. Matthew 5:29 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Matthew 5:30 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where do the sins of fornication and adultery begin? Matthew 15:19  
\_\_\_\_\_

**D. The Command in Present Day Life:**

1. Could the following contribute in any way to the breaking of this command?
  - a. Suggestive pictures or stories--on billboards, on calendars, in magazines, in movies, on television, etc.? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Immodest clothing? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Posture, bearing, or walk which calls attention to oneself? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. The widespread lack of restraint in expressing affection, such as promiscuous holding of hands, embracing, kissing, petting: etc.? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. What attitude do people today sometimes have toward the breaking of this command?  
Jeremiah 6:15, 8:12  
\_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators...nor adulterers... shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)  
  
"I beseech you therefore... that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice... unto God."  
(Romans 12:1)

## THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT

### Exodus 20:15

“Thou shalt not steal.”

**A. An Old Testament Example:** When God's people were fighting to gain possession of the land which God had promised to them, they won a great victory at Jericho because God fought for them. The next town they sought to conquer was Ai. Read about this battle in Joshua 7:

1. What had God commanded should be done with the people of Jericho and all of their possessions? Joshua 6:17

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What was to be done with the silver and gold, and vessels of brass and iron? Joshua 6:19

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What would be the penalty if anyone broke these commands? Joshua 6:18

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How large a place was Ai? Joshua 7:3

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What happened when the Israelites fought against Ai? Joshua 7:4, 5

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How did Joshua and the other leaders feel about this? Joshua 7:6-9

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What did God say was the reason for this terrible defeat?  
7:11

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What did God say must be done before they could have victory again? Joshua 7:13

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Notice the four steps in the sin of Achan: Joshua 7:21

a. First he \_\_\_\_\_ the articles;

b. then he \_\_\_\_\_ them;

c. then he \_\_\_\_\_ them;

d. and finally he \_\_\_\_\_ them.

10. What was Achan's punishment for this sin?

a. Joshua 7:25b \_\_\_\_\_

b. Joshua 7:15, 25c \_\_\_\_\_

11. What was Achan's total gain because of stealing? Joshua 7:24, 25

\_\_\_\_\_

12. Who else suffered because of Achan's sin? Joshua 7:24, 5 (See Numbers 32:23b)

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. The Command in the New Testament:**

1. How is this command stated in the New Testament? Ephesians 4:28a

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is one to do instead of stealing? Why? Ephesians 4:28b

\_\_\_\_\_

**C. The Command in Present Day Life:**

1. A good definition of stealing is this: "Taking that which belongs to another without giving something of equal value in return." Do you steal when you:

a. keep incorrect change? \_\_\_\_\_

b. waste time on the job? \_\_\_\_\_

c. turn in as your own work that which has been done by another?

\_\_\_\_\_

d. do not return borrowed articles? \_\_\_\_\_

e. gamble? \_\_\_\_\_

f. waste time? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you steal when you:

a. gossip? \_\_\_\_\_

b. cheat on a test? \_\_\_\_\_

c. are noisy or uncooperative in class? \_\_\_\_\_

d. do not give money to the Lord's work? \_\_\_\_\_

e. do not give your *life* to God? \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me." (Malachi 3:8a)

\_\_\_\_\_

2. "Thou that preaches a man should not steal, dost *thou* steal?"

(Romans 2:21b)

\_\_\_\_\_

## THE NINTH COMMANDMENT

### Exodus 20:16

“Thou shalt not bear false witness.”

**A. The Command in the Old Testament:** Read Exodus 20:16

1. Who told the first lie? Compare Genesis 2:16,17 with Genesis 3:1-5; John 8:44b

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2. When human beings tell lies, whose example are they following? John 8:44

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**B. A New Testament Example:** Very soon after the Lord Jesus left this earth to go back to heaven, someone broke this commandment. Read about this in Acts 4:32-5:11.

1. What were all the Christians doing with their houses and lands? Acts 4:34b

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2. Why were they doing this? Acts 4:35

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3. What did Ananias and Sapphira do with the money they got from selling their land?

a. Acts 5:1, 2a

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b. Acts 5:2b

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4. What sin did they commit in doing this? Acts 5:3

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5. Can you find anything in this passage which would indicate that Ananias actually told a lie?

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6. Was what he did and said *partly* true?

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7. Who did Peter say had caused Ananias to do this? Acts 5:3

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8. Where did this sin begin? Acts 5:3, 4

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9. To Whom had Ananias really lied? Acts 5:3, 4

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10. What happened to Ananias?

a. Acts 5:5

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b. Acts 5:6

---

11. Who else told a lie besides Ananias? Acts 5:7-9

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12. What happened to her? Acts 5:10

---

13. How did the other people feel when they saw how God had punished these two? Acts 5:5,11

---

**C. The Command in the New Testament:**

1. How is this command stated in the New Testament? Colossians 3:9

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2. What will be the end of all liars? Revelation 21:27; 22:14,15; 21:8

---

**D. The Command in Present-Day Life:**

1. Does God make any distinction between:
  - a. half-truths and lies? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. "white" lies and "black" lies? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. "little" lies and "big" lies? \_\_\_\_\_Psalm 51:6 says, "Behold, Thou desire truth in the *inward* parts."
2. Is it enough simply to tell the truth at all times? Ephesians 4:15a

---

3. In what other way can one tell a lie besides with his words. (See Hebrews 13:18b; 1 Thessalonians 4:12a)

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**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Do *any* of my words, or *any* of my actions, bear false witness?

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2. What three things can help me to speak and act truthfully at all times? (See John 14:6, 16:13, 17:17)

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## THE TENTH COMMANDMENT

### Exodus 20:17

“Thou shalt not covet.”

**A. The Command Itself:** Notice that six specific things which one is not to covet are listed- but all of these, and all that any person of any age in any culture might covet are summed up in the final phase of the commandment: “Thou shalt not covet... *anything* that is thy neighbor’s.”

**B. An Old Testament Example:** After the nation Israel had risen to the height of its power and had begun to decline, one of its kings was guilty of breaking this commandment.

Read about this in 1 Kings 21:1-24:

1. Who were the two neighbors in this story? 1 Kings 21:1
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_, king of Israel at Samaria, and
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_, the Jezreelite.
2. What did the second have that the first wanted? 1 Kings 21:2  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did the owner refuse to give up this property? 1 Kings 21:3  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did the king act when he couldn’t have his own way? 1 Kings 21:4  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who is the third character in this story? 1 Kings 21:5  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Notice in 1 Kings 21:7-10 how she went about getting her own way. What two groups of people helped her carry out her wicked plans?
  - a. 1 Kings 21:11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 1 Kings 21:13 \_\_\_\_\_
7. How did the king feel when he heard that his neighbor was dead? 1 Kings 21:15, 16  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What punishment was promised and carried out for these sins?
  - a. To Ahab himself: 1 Kings 21:19; 22:37, 38 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. To his descendants: 1 Kings 21:23, 24; 2 Kings 10:11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. To his wife: 1 Kings 21:23; 2 Kings 9:30, 37 \_\_\_\_\_
9. Notice that Ahab’s sin *began* with coveting--but it did not *stop* there. Tell how he broke the following commandments as well:
  - a. First: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Second: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Third: \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Sixth: \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Eighth: \_\_\_\_\_

f. Ninth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Notice how completely he broke *both* parts of the law as given by Jesus in Matthew 22:36-40. (See James 2:10)

**C. The Command in the New Testament:**

1. Where does the sin of covetousness always begin? Mark 7:21, 22  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are we to do about the sin of covetousness? Colossians 3:5 (Look up this word in a dictionary)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**D. The Command in Present Day Life:**

1. A good definition of coveting would be this: "Wanting something which God in his all-wise providence has not seen fit to give to you." Unless this desire is checked in the heart, it usually leads to other sins in order to obtain the thing desired.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What kind of coveting is permitted and even commanded by God through Paul? (See 1 Corinthians 12:31)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. What do I want that God has not seen fit for me to have?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. If I allow these desires to stay in my heart, what other sins may I commit?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS BROKEN

### Exodus 20 - 34

Our study of the Ten Commandments would not be complete without a glimpse at the behavior of the people after they had received these commandments. Notice this in the chapters following Exodus 20, and especially in Exodus 32:

#### A. Moses' Absence from the People:

1. After the people asked God not to speak with them, how did God give the civil and ceremonial laws for His people? Exodus 20:19, 21, 22  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. God next gave the instructions for building the Tabernacle. How long was Moses absent from the people for this purpose? Exodus 24:13  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who evidently accompanied Moses at least part way up the mountain? Exodus 24:13, 14a  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What two men were left in charge of the people in Moses' absence? Exodus 24:14b  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did God give to Moses as he was ready to leave the mountain? Exodus 31:18  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### B. The Sin of the People: Read Exodus 32:1-6

1. While Moses was gone, what had the people asked Aaron to do? Exodus 32:1  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Aaron tell the people to do? Exodus 32:2  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Aaron make? Exodus 32:4a  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did the people say this image had done? Exodus 32:4b  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What else did Aaron do? Exodus 32:5  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did the people act? Exodus 32:6  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### C. Moses' Prayer for the People: Read Exodus 32:7-14

1. Who saw the people's sin? Exodus 32:7, 8  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did He want to do to them? Exodus 32:9, 10  
\_\_\_\_\_

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3. For what two reasons did Moses say it would not be wise to do this?

a. Exodus 32:12 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Exodus 32:13 \_\_\_\_\_

**D. The Punishment of the People:** Read Exodus 32:15-33:23

1. What happened to the tablets of God's law? Exodus 32:19

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What happened to the calf? Exodus 32:20

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What happened because the people were naked? Exodus 32:25-28

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What other punishment did God send? Exodus 32:35

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What else did God threaten not to do, but later promised He would do? Exodus 33:3, 14

\_\_\_\_\_

**E. God's Provision for the People:** Read Exodus 34:1-3

1. What did God tell Moses to make after this? Exodus 34:1a

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What did God promise He would do for His people? Exodus 34:1b

\_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. After my study of God's commandments, will I, like the Israelites, forget them and break them so soon? If so, what punishment awaits me?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Is there any hope for those who break God's commandments today? Romans 8:3, 4, 6:12, 13

\_\_\_\_\_

## SUMMARY OF LESSONS LEARNED THROUGH THE STUDY OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS:

### A. Breaking God's Commandments Is Sin:

1. We break them in two ways:
  - a. By sins of commission: *Doing* what God has told us *not* to do.
  - b. By sins of omission: *Not* doing what God has told us *to* do.
2. Unless we *do* ALL that God has told us *to* do, and *refrain* from doing ALL that God has told us *not* to do, we have sinned.

### B. God Hates Sin in Any Form:

1. So much He would not let the sinful people come near Him. (Exodus 19)
2. So much He gave the death penalty time and time again for those who had sinned.
3. So much He says (through Jesus) that it is better for a person not to have eyes and hands, than to have them, and allow them to lead him into sin.
4. So much He wanted to destroy the chosen nation because of their sin. (Exodus 32)

### C. The Penalty for Any Sin Is Death:

1. For murder, for adultery, for stealing, but also for making idols, for taking God's name in vain, for disobedience to parents, for lying, for picking up sticks on the Sabbath day.
2. "The wages of *sin* (*any* sin—"large" or "small", "much" or "little") is death." (Romans 6:23)

### D. We Can Sin Inwardly as Well as Outwardly:

1. Covetousness in the heart is idolatry.
2. Hatred in the heart is murder.
3. An evil thought in the heart is adultery.
4. "The *heart* is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

### E. Outward Sin Is the Result of Sin in the Heart:

1. Joseph's brothers wanted to murder him because they had hatred in their hearts.
2. Achan stole because he coveted in his heart.
3. Ananias lied because Satan filled his heart.
4. Ahab lied, killed, and stole because of the covetousness in his heart.
5. "For out of the *heart* proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." (Matthew 15:19)

### F. Sin Has Terrible Results:

1. One sinful act may break many of God's commands.
2. One sin leads to other sins.
3. The sin of one person usually affects other people too. (Achan and Ahab are good illustrations of all of these truths.)

**G. All Of Us Are Guilty of Sin Inwardly, If Not Outwardly:**

1. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
2. "There is none that doeth good, no, not one." (Romans 3:12)
3. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way." (Isaiah 53:6)

**H. We Need Power Over Sin:** (Commandments do not--*cannot*--give us power!)

1. Only Jesus could keep the Ten Commandments perfectly.
2. Only Jesus can give us power to keep the Ten Commandments.
3. His way of giving us power is fourfold:
  - a. To pay our penalty for past sins. (Romans 8:6, 8; 1 Peter 2:24)
  - b. To change our hearts, so that we no longer desire to sin. (1 Corinthians 5:17)
  - c. To *live within* us (Colosians 1:27) in the person of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16) to give us power over future sins. (1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 8:37)
  - d. To give us the highest possible motive for *wanting* to keep the commandments--LOVE for GOD! (Romans 5:5; 1 John 4:8, 10, 19; Romans 13:8, 10)