



# **The Big Ten**

## **WestWay Christian Church**

“Then God gave the people all these instructions: I am the LORD your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.” - Exodus 20:1.

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**Background on the Ten Commandments-** The descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had just spent more than 400 years enslaved in Egypt. Delivered By God through Moses, they were on their way to the Promised Land. Along the way, they met God at Mount Sinai. God first gave them an identity: “*And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation*” (Exodus 19:6) and then he gave them words by which their identity was to be revealed and lived out. These words were the “how?” of their new identity.

So...why are we studying them?

- Jesus refers to them often. They had value to Him; as Christians who seek to be like our Master, they ought to have value to us.
- Jesus did not ignore or replace the Ten Commandments, he fulfilled them.
- They reveal 1) who we are, 2) God’s character in relation to himself, 3) God’s character in relation to us, 4) guardrails for our lives, and 5) what God has done (DeYoung).
- Our desire at WestWay is to read and teach the Bible in its entirety. Each year, we strive to have specific teachings from BOTH the Old and New Testaments. In 2018, we studied (among other things), Ecclesiastes, Hebrews and James. You will frequently hear text from both the Old and New Testament in our Sunday messages. This is absolutely, 100% on purpose.

This study is best done within the context of a small group or Bible study. For each study, you’ll find the theme verse, a conversation starter, and a number of follow-up questions to help you process what God might be saying to you.

### **Resources that Impacted this Message Series and Study:**

*Jesus-centered Bible.* (2015). Carol Steam, IL: Lifetree.

Cahill, Thomas (1998). *The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels*, New York: Doubleday.

Davidman, Joy (1954). *Smoke on the Mountain: An Interpretation of the Ten Commandments*, Philadelphia: the Westminster Press.

DeYoung, Kevin (2018). *The Ten Commandments: What They Mean, Why They Matter, and Why We Should Obey Them*, Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

Inserra, Dean (2019). *The Unsaved Christian: Reaching Cultural Christianity With the Gospel*, Chicago: Moody.

Schaeffer, Francis A (1981). *A Christian Manifesto*, Westchester, IL: Crossway.

**This study guide will follow our Spring 2019 message series on the Ten Commandments.  
Each week, usually by Sunday afternoon, you'll find the message online at  
[westwaychurch.com/media](http://westwaychurch.com/media).**

<b>May 5 2019-</b>	<b>One God</b>	<b>Exodus 20:1-3</b>
<b>May 12 2019-</b>	<b>No Idols</b>	<b>Exodus 20:4-6</b>
<b>May 19 2019-</b>	<b>God's Name</b>	<b>Exodus 20:7</b>
<b>May 26 2019-</b>	<b>Rest</b>	<b>Exodus 20:8-11</b>
<b>June 2 2019-</b>	<b>Honor Parents</b>	<b>Exodus 20:12</b>
<b>June 16 2019-</b>	<b>No Murder</b>	<b>Exodus 20:13</b>
<b>June 23 2019-</b>	<b>No Adultery</b>	<b>Exodus 20:14</b>
<b>June 30 2019-</b>	<b>No Stealing</b>	<b>Exodus 20:15</b>
<b>July 7 2019-</b>	<b>No Lying</b>	<b>Exodus 20:16</b>
<b>July 14 2019-</b>	<b>No Coveting</b>	<b>Exodus 20:17</b>

## **One God- Exodus 20:1-3**

**Theme Verse:** “You must not have any other god but me.”- Exodus 20:3 (NLT).

### **Conversation Starter:**

In 2014, the “10 Non-Commandments Contest” was held online. There were 2,800 submissions and thirteen judges selected ten winners.

Here are the "Ten Non-Commandments" chosen as the winners:

1. Be open-minded and be willing to alter your beliefs with new evidence.
2. Strive to understand what is most likely to be true, not to believe what you wish to be true.
3. The scientific method is the most reliable way of understanding the natural world.
4. Every person has the right to control of their body.
5. God is not necessary to be a good person or to live a full and meaningful life.
6. Be mindful of the consequences of all your actions and recognize that you must take responsibility for them.
7. Treat others as you would want them to treat you, and can reasonably expect them to want to be treated. Think about their perspective.
8. We have the responsibility to consider others, including future generations.
9. There is no one right way to live.
10. Leave the world a better place than you found it.

How do these “non-commandments” differ from the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17?

**Read Exodus 20:1-3**, paying close attention to verse 2.

- Why is God telling the people this? What is He doing here?

How is this first commandment (verse 3) foundational for all the other commandments?

Author Kevin DeYoung writes, “The other nine commandments speak of acts you should or shouldn’t do, but the first commandment mandates a certain kind or relationship” (33). What kind of relationship is God insisting on? What gives Him the right to this expectation?

**Read the following texts** and discuss how Jesus transforms the first commandment: Matthew 17:5, Philippians 2:10-11, 1 Timothy 2:5, and Hebrews 1:3.

John Calvin says that we owe God four things: adoration, trust, invocation, and thanksgiving.

1. Who do you praise (adoration)? Who receives your highest praise?
2. Whom do you count on (trust)? When you are really in need who do you know will always come through?
3. Whom do you call for (invocation)? Where do you look for answers? Where do you turn for purpose and joy? Is it, food, work, TV, your phone, or the God of the universe?
4. Whom do you thank? Where do your good days come from?

## **No Idols- Exodus 20:4-6**

**Theme Verse:** “You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea.”- Exodus 20:4 (NLT).

### **Conversation Starter:**

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase, “the image of God”? What might it mean that man was made in the image of God?

Visit <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/image-god/> then watch and discuss the video called, “The Image of God”.

- What did being “the image of God” mean for a king in ancient times?
- Compare/contrast your idea of “the image of God” with what was in the video.

### **Read Exodus 20:4-6.**

Kevin DeYoung writes, “If the first commandment is against worshiping the wrong God, the second commandment is against worshiping God in the wrong way” (42). How do you see this statement in Exodus 20:4-6? What might it mean to “worship God in the wrong way”?

**Read Acts 17:16-33-** what do you observe about the people of Athens? How does Paul challenge their prevailing religious views? Where and how do you see violations of the first and second commandments.

**Read Genesis 1:26-28 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.** How are these texts similar? How are they different?

How might an image of God represent God incorrectly?

How might you, as an ambassador of Christ, represent him poorly?

## **God's Name- Exodus 20:7**

**Theme Verse:** "You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God."- Exodus 20:7a (NLT).

### **Conversation Starter:**

Before you come to group, spend some time understanding your name. Where did it come from? Why do you have the name you have? What does it mean? If you had a nickname as a child, what was it? How did you get it? Do you ever wish you had a different name? What would it be? Why?

Read Exodus 3:1-15. What does this incident reveal about God and how does it establish the significance of his name?

**Read through the following scenes from the Bible.** In the spaces between the texts, write what you see as the violation of this commandment.

- Leviticus 24:16-23
  
- Leviticus 19:12
  
- Jeremiah 23:25
  
- Leviticus 18:21
  
- Leviticus 22:2, Malachi 1:10-14

Author Kevin DeYoung reduces these violations of this commandment to the "false, frivolous, and phony." What are some ways you have reduced God's name in false, frivolous, or phony ways?

How might the third commandment inform our prayers? How about our worship?

## **Rest- Exodus 20:8-11**

**Theme Verse:** “Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”- Exodus 20:8 (NLT).

### **Conversation Starter:**

Spend time talking about how you spent your Sundays growing up. Did your family have any rules about how Sunday was spent? Were there certain things you were allowed, or not allowed to do? Has that changed for you?

**Read through the following scenes from the Gospels.** In the space below each text, write what you believe Jesus’ activities on the Sabbath were designed to accomplish.

- Matthew 12:1-8, Mark 2:23-27, Luke 6:1-5
  
- Matthew 12:9-14, Mark 3:1-6, Luke 6:6-11
  
- Luke 13:10-17
  
- Luke 14:1-24

Based on the above, what is the Sabbath for?

How do you view Sundays? What changes might you make to how you live out that day each week?

## **Honor Parents- Exodus 20:12**

**Theme Verse:** "Honor your father and mother."- Exodus 20:12a.

Series note: With this commandment, we see an obvious separation take place; the first four commandments appear to be geared vertically (about the relationship between God and man), while the final six are horizontally (about the relationship between man and man) oriented.

### **Conversation Starter:**

What are some ways your understanding of this verse has changed as you've gotten older?  
What is the difference between obeying and honoring your parents?

**Read through the following scenes from Scripture.** In the space below each text, write what we might learn about honoring our parents. Also, how does violating this commandment affect the relationships we have with others?

- Luke 2:41-52

- John 5:16-47

- Matthew 15:1-9

- Ephesians 6:1-4

What is included in honoring our parents? What parameters must we use when determining how best to honor them?

How did Jesus demonstrate what it means to honor the fifth commandment? What challenges do you think he faced?

How does the fifth commandment go beyond simple honor?



## No Murder- Exodus 20:13

**Theme Verse:** “You must not murder.”- Exodus 20:13 (NLT).

### Conversation Starter:

Some translations render the word “murder” as “kill.” Is there a difference between these words? How does our culture treat the two words? Are they interchangeable? Should they be? Why/Why not?

**Read through the following scenes from Scripture.** In the space below each text, make notes on what you’re learning.

- Exodus 21:12-36
  - In verse 24, we are introduced to the concept of *lex talionis* (the law of retaliation). Was “an eye for an eye” meant to be taken literally or figuratively? Why?
- Matthew 5:21-26
- Matthew 5:38-42
- Matthew 26:51-52
  - What is Jesus’ warning to those who “draw the sword”?
  - Obviously not everyone who engages in violence (soldiers for example) dies a violent death. What do you think Jesus’ real message is here?
  - Can you think of a place in the Bible where Jesus Himself “draws a sword”?
- Romans 13:1-7
  - What do these verses tell us about the role of government?
  - In some translations, verse 4 includes something about the government, “not bearing the sword in vain.” What does this mean?

How does Jesus transform this commandment?

In what ways can we not escape the reality of our own guilt concerning this commandment? What specific action of Jesus covers this particular guilt? Why? How?

How has the study of this particular commandment challenged or altered your convictions?

## **No Adultery- Exodus 20:14**

**Theme Verse:** “You must not commit adultery.”- Exodus 20:14 (NLT).

### **Conversation Starter:**

Discuss the following statement by Joy Davidman: “If we cannot agree on a definition of marriage, how can we define adultery?” What is marriage? How does society as a whole teach on this topic?

**Read through the following scenes from Scripture.** In the space below each text, make notes on how these scriptures “define” marriage; be prepared to discuss this.

- Genesis 2:18-25
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Malachi 2:13-15
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Ephesians 5:22-33
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Matthew 5:27-30
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Matthew 5:31-32
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Matthew 19:1-12

What are some ways Jesus transforms this commandment?

## **No Stealing- Exodus 20:15**

**Theme Verse:** “You must not steal.”- Exodus 20:15 (NLT).

### **Conversation Starter:**

Talk about your experience with this commandment. How have you broken it? How honest are you with your taxes? Have you ever taken your own candy or snacks into a movie theater? Have you ever borrowed someone else’s Netflix password? Are these things stealing? Why/ Why not? Is there ever a time when stealing is ok? Can you give examples of when it might be?

**Read through the following scenes from Scripture.** In the space below each text, make notes about how each theft affected the relationships between the people found in the texts.

- Genesis 27
- Joshua 7:16-26

How does greed factor in as a violation of the eighth commandment? What can we learn about greed from the following passages?

- Luke 12:13-21
- Luke 16:1-13
- 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- James 5:1-6

How does this commandment serve as a guide for our personal relationships as well as how we treat people in general?

Read Matthew 13:44-46. How does this parable reshape your perspective on material assets? How can you cultivate this perspective in your own heart and life?

## **No Lying- Exodus 20:16**

**Theme Verse:** “You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.”- Exodus 20:16 (NLT).

### **Conversation Starter:**

Talk about your neighborhood...what are the people who live there like? What about where you work or go to school? How would you describe your relationships with them? Can you testify falsely against your neighbor if you do not know him or her? What effects have false testimonies had on our world today? Have you ever been impacted by one? How?

**Read through the following scenes from Scripture.** In the space below these texts, make some notes (and be prepared to discuss) on what you're learning.

- Deuteronomy 17:6-7
  - What are the implications of verse 7? Is there a deeper reason that the witnesses must lead the way in the punishment?
- Zechariah 8:16-17
- 1 Timothy 5:19

In the space below these texts, make notes on how the relationships are affected when this commandment is violated.

- Genesis 29
- 1 Kings 21
- Acts 5:1-11

In what ways does the ninth commandment cover so much more than lying or bearing false witness in a court of law?

How is motive a factor in breaking or keeping the ninth commandment? Give some specific examples.

Read Proverbs 18:17. What does this verse mean? How might it apply in the world of social media?

From a biblical standpoint, why is telling the truth of such vital importance?

## **No Coveting- Exodus 20:17**

**Theme Verse:** “You must not covet...”- Exodus 20:17a (NLT).

### **Conversation Starter:**

Fill in the blank: “If only I had \_\_\_\_\_, I would be happy.” How did you decide what to put there?

**Read through the following scenes from Scripture.** In the space between each text, make some notes (and be prepared to discuss) on what you’re learning about covetousness.

- Psalm 73
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Romans 1:28-31
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Romans 5:3
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Matthew 6:33

Read James 1:14-15. What is the difference between temptations, desires and sin?

How are coveting and discontentment linked?

Kevin DeYoung writes, “Let me suggest four signs that you (and I) have a problem with coveting:

1. You might be coveting if you’ve hurt others in order to get more for yourself.
2. You might be coveting if you’re preoccupied with making and accumulating more.
3. You might be coveting if you’re unwilling to give up what you already have.
4. You might be coveting if you’re frequently grumbling about your house, your spouse, the quality or quantity of your possessions, and the general state of your life.

Which sign do you find most convicting and why? How is this affecting your relationships with others?