

Topic: God's Ten Words – I am Your God

Note: The motivation of our obedience is love. Our love develops by appreciating what God did and who He is.

Verses:

Ex 20:1 And God spoke all these words, saying,

Ex 20:2 I am Jehovah your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the slave house;

Ex 20:3 ***You shall have no other gods before Me.***

Focus: God spoke to His people so that they may know who He is. Surely Israel saw God answering their prayer and demonstrating His power by rescuing them out of the hand of Pharaoh through the plagues and the splitting of the sea. However, we see that the loving God wanted His people to know Him. So, God led them to a great mountain so that He may be with them and speak to them in an intimate and personal way. God let His people know who He is by “ten words.”

The first commandment of God is that we should have no other gods. There are not many gods. Our friends and neighbors might think there are other Gods, like the people in Egypt. But we should not have such a thought! The bible firmly declares that there is only one true and living God.

Practical Notes:

As our God what does He deserve and what should we do?

- God is the one who deserves to be worshipped.
- God is the one who deserves our trust and our love.
- God is the one who has the right to rule and deserves our obedience.
- God is the one who we follow.

How can we have other gods? What can be another god?

- Anything that we follow or offer our worship, love, trust, or obedience can become a kind of god to us.
- Another god can not only be things but also needs, wants, and enjoyment.

Phil 3:19 Whose end is destruction, whose god is their stomach, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

Remember, this is God's word. We must honor it and do it.

Topic: God's Ten Words – No Idols

Verses:

Ex 20:4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, nor the form of anything that is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water beneath the earth.

Ex 20:5 You shall not bow down to them, and you shall not serve them; for I, Jehovah your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me,

Ex 20:6 Yet showing lovingkindness to thousands of *generations* of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

Focus:

An idol is anything that replaces God. The ten commandments show that God is not flexible or broad minded. The god's in other religions are not the same as God himself. God is unique. There is no one like Him. He does not tolerate His people having any other god or idol. God is jealous.

Jealous means that God is very protective of us. He does not want to share us with anything else. He wants us to love Him only. In fact, God hates anything that takes His place in our hearts or draws us away from Him like an idol does. This is how much God loves us.

Because God is righteous, He will visit those who hate Him. He must act in this way to show that He is righteous. If you hate or disobey Him, He will deal with you according to His righteousness.

God's love and righteousness are revealed in these verses. God will visit those who disobey Him for a few generations, but to those who love Him, He will show mercy to them for *thousands* of generations. In this we see God's lovingkindness. Although God's anger can be counted, His mercy is beyond counting. What a loving God! We should love Him and obey His commandments.

Practical Notes:

A husband is rightly jealous of his wife. Parents are rightly jealous of their children. There would be great jealousy and heartbreak if someone's children called anyone else "Dad" or "Mom."

With such a great promise of blessing and discipline, we should consider if there are any idols in our heart. Do you take education, video games, sports or money as your god? Does anything draw you away from God or doing godly things like reading the bible or going to the meetings?

Sometimes our parents can help point out our idols, but the bible says that God absolutely knows our heart and whether we have idols in our hearts. God knows everything.

Ezk 14:2-3a And the word of Jehovah came to me, saying, Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts...

Topic: God's Ten Words – God's Name

Verses:

Ex 20:7 You shall not take the name of Jehovah your God in vain, for Jehovah *will not hold guiltless him who takes His name in vain.

*will not leave him unpunished – *NASB & Amplified Bible*

Focus:

Everything that God is should be precious to us. In this commandment we see that God wants his name to also be precious to us. His name represents His person.

What does it mean to use God's name in vain? It is to use His name in a meaningless way. It also means not having respect for it. Today so many people take the Lord's name in vain. People do not show respect for God when they use His name in a meaningless way. You probably have heard His name even used as a curse word by people you know.

Our loving God is also righteous. There is a warning in this verse to those who use His name in a meaningless way. Those who use God's name in vain will be guilty. When someone is guilty, they must face the punishment of the judge. God is our judge. This is a warning to us.

We should have respect for God's names. A wonderful way to use God's name is to pray. You may say "Oh God, you are my wonderful creator" or "Jesus, thank you that you love me" or "Lord, help me honor my father and mother."

As we have already seen, God loves us, listens to us, and rescues us so that we may be with only Him and know Him. We should respect and love His precious name!

Practical Notes:

We hope that no one uses God's name in vain. This includes other names of God like Jesus and Jesus Christ. This commandment may not seem as serious as other commandments because so many people, including our friends, break it. In some cases, people may not know this commandment, but you know it. You know that this is a serious matter since God will punish those who are guilty.

Think about this for the next two weeks.

1. Do I use any of God's names in vain?
2. Do I come close to using it in an improper way?
3. Does it bother me when others use God's name in vain?

We are learning about God's commandments. Here we see both God's love and His standard. We must keep God's word.

Topic: God's Ten Words – Keep the Sabbath Holy (1)

Verses:

Ex 20:8 Remember the Sabbath day so as to sanctify it.

Ex 20:9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

Ex 20:10 But the seventh day is a Sabbath to Jehovah your God; you shall not do any work, you nor your son nor your daughter, your male servant nor your female servant, nor your cattle nor the sojourner with you, who is within your gates.

Ex 20:11 For in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore Jehovah blessed the Sabbath day and sanctified it.

Focus:

As we see from the commandment of “no idols” that God is unique. Nothing in the universe is like God. In this commandment we see that God wants His people to be unique as well. It is a shame if there's no difference between God's people and the world. In the Old Testament time, everybody else worked on the seventh day to make food and money, but God's people rested. This was a great mark, a sign, that God's people were separated unto God Himself. This reveals that God is holy.

Today the principle must be the same. There should be a mark on us that we are different. We should not be like other people in the world. Others try to use every day to satisfy their needs and desires. The way we can show that we are different and separate is that we are restful and satisfied. We can rest because we remember that God has provided all that we need.

God is so loving. He cares about our rest. We must care for our rest too. It is good for us to be active, but we should reserve adequate time to rest our soul and body. We must know how to stop.

Practical Notes:

To obey this commandment, we must simply know how to stop. If we don't stop, we cannot rest. Can you stop and rest:

- when your parents ask you to stop playing video games or screen time?
- when it's time to stop playing with friends?
- when it's time to go to bed? Can you go to bed yourself at a good and proper time?
- when waiting for something? If you can be calm while waiting, then you are satisfied.
- your mind when it's busy and your body when it's constantly moving?

God commands us to be calm and satisfied after we do something and before we do anything. Everybody wants more of what they have and can't wait to start the next thing. However, people need to notice that you are different because you are calm and satisfied. You need to obey His word by remembering how God has already worked to provide His best for you, both today and tomorrow.

Topic: God's Ten Words – Keep the Sabbath Holy (2)

Verses:

Ex 20:8 Remember the Sabbath day so as to sanctify it.

Ex 23:11 But the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the needy of your people may eat, and what they leave, the animals of the field may eat. You are to do the same with your vineyard *and* with your olive grove.

Ex 23:12 Six days you shall do your work, and on the seventh day you shall cease *from work* so that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your female servant and the sojourner may be refreshed.

Focus:

In this lesson we see that this commandment shows God's loving care for everyone and everything. In Exodus 20 and 23 we see God's loving care for people, animals, and travelers that pass through. This commandment even shows God's tender care for homeless people and homeless animals. How sweet are God's commandments! God wants everyone and everything to be well rested, refreshed, and satisfied.

Here we see that obeying this commandment not only involves our relationship with God, but also involves our relationship with others and other things. We all have parents and some have siblings. Some have dogs or cats. If we don't obey God's word to rest, then the people and animals related to us will not have any rest. We will keep them busy all the time for our entertainment and pleasure. This can frustrate God's care for them and can cause people and things to become angry or upset.

You can help God to care for everyone's need when you obey His commandments and remember His rest. Resting means that you are satisfied. When you are satisfied then you will feel like you have enough and you will share what you have with others including your time. You will not be selfish and think only about yourself but have proper humanity, showing loving care to things that are close to you like your family and to those who are far like travelers and the homeless.

Practical Notes:

Do you have thoughtful concern for everyone? If we obey this commandment then we will care for:

- Our parents when they need rest from a hard day or when they are sick.
- Our siblings or friends needs. We will not bother them. We will share our food and toys.
- Our neighbors so we don't disturb them by excessive noise or running through their lawn.

Discuss ways that our obedience to this commandment will help others and why. For example, did you know some people use their phones so much that they catch fire? Have you ever said, "mom, mom, mom, mom...." until she is unsettled? Do you care for travelers who stay at your home?

Lesson 4 – Sabbath: Appendix

Consider how much your parents have worked and are working to take the best care of you. Have you ever worried about food or enough clothes to wear? Even if we get our clothes dirty, somehow, they become clean again. We might be busy upstairs and then we hear the call for dinner. Without much surprise we find food on the table. Even we receive candy and toys from time to time to bring a smile to our face. There are so many days in the year but our parents somehow know what we have to do and when we have to do it. They always know when it's time to go. How much more has God worked and is working to take care of you even though we might not see Him. We can rest because we (trust) remember God has already worked to provide the best care for us. Now we can see how the next commandment of honoring your parents is related.

Do you remember? It's good to stop and remember how much love and work our parents put into us. They truly take care of every need. Some families have a lot and some have little, but what all Godly families have are parents who work to take care of their children's needs. It is good for you to remember their hard work. We must not only remember but we must also thank them. Most importantly, you must remember that the reason and the goal of our parents taking such good care of us is that they want to spend time with you. Parents are simply happy being with their children.

God worked for six days creating everything. On the 7th day he was able to rest because he created man. Since man was there, God was satisfied. Think about that 7th day where God and man rested. Everything was ready for man. God prepared the air, light, water, and food. God did everything and man simply enjoyed God's work. On the 7th day there was nothing else for either of them to do. You can say God and man spent the whole day together just being with one another. What joy, rest, and satisfaction this must have given God and Adam. Maybe they walk through the garden of Eden exploring all the wonderful things in it. Maybe they spent time in the grass looking at all the heavenly things like the sun, the clouds, the moon and the billions of stars in the sky. What a day that must have been. Indeed, Adam had no need of anything that day. Both God and man were at rest and were satisfied.

We must remember that nothing we do and nothing we can create can give us the same satisfaction as God. It is a shame knowing that God has such joy and satisfaction with man yet man is distracted by having his satisfaction and joy in other things other than God. There are many things that we are busy with and work to do to be happy and satisfied. But we must stop and remember that nothing can be as satisfying as God.

God commands us to remember to rest. Why? It is to remember that day which God did everything, and man enjoyed God and all that he did. We must remember that God is man's greatest satisfaction. This feeling of satisfaction is the rest that we have before we start anything. It is also the feeling that we should have after we have stopped our work. Our life needs to be full of remembering of all what God has done.

From this point we can see that if you don't remember the Sabbath, remembering that God is our rest and satisfaction, then it's easy to break the following commandments of honoring parents, not lie, not steal, not kill, and not covet or be jealous. Indeed, regarding the previous commandments if we do not know God, have idols, and don't respect God's name then we easily will not care to remember the Sabbath.

Topic: God's Ten Words – Honoring Parents (1)

Ex 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be extended upon the land which Jehovah your God is giving you.

Ep 6:2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with a promise,

Mt 15:8 “This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart stays far away from Me;

Focus:

When we honor our parents, we honor God Himself. The source of your life is your parents, and the source of your parents is your grandparents. If you go all the way back, you will find that God is the source of all people. We all come from Noah and in Luke 3 it traces the generations all the way back to Adam, who God created from the dust. Therefore, to honor our parents is to honor God.

This commandment brings with it a wonderful promise. If we honor our parents, our days will be long upon the earth. Only God, the source of life, can grant us a long life. Many can testify to the blessing that comes from honoring our parents.

In Matthew 15 we see that you cannot say that you honor God yet not honor your parents. This is to honor God with only your “lips”. This means you are not actually truly honoring God. When we honor our parents, we must honor them with our heart. Then you will truly honor God.

It is a very serious thing to despise our parents. To despise our parents is to despise our source, our origin, which is God. Also, if we despise our parents, we will not receive the promise of a longer life.

Practical Notes:

What does honor mean? In Hebrew the word Honor “Kavod” or “Kabed”, means “Weighty”. It also means to respect, value, and appreciate.

When your parents say or do something do you give proper weight or value to it? You must not complain when they ask something of you. You should also not ignore their request, making them ask over and over. Outwardly you may be nice to your parents, but inwardly you wish your parents to leave you alone or stop telling you what to do. This kind of heart does not honor your parents.

Have you ever embarrassed your parents? We should be careful not to embarrass them with what we say or do around our friends or in public.

1. How does our attitude relate to honor?
2. Share with everyone how you have honored your parents lately.

Resource: Sadden; Roll your eyes; Cause shame; ignore; complain; talk back

Topic: God's Ten Words – Honoring Parents (2)

Ex 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be extended upon the land which Jehovah your God is giving you.

Co 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing in the Lord.

Rm 13:1-2 Let every person be subject to the authorities over *him*, for there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are ordained by God. So, then he who resists the authority opposes God's ordination, and those who oppose will receive judgment to themselves

Focus:

As children, we need to both honor our parents and obey them. This is right and well pleasing to God. What is the difference? Can you obey your parents without honoring them?

Whether you obey is based upon whether you did something or not. To honor is based upon your attitude or feeling. For example, did you take out the trash or not. If you did, then you obeyed. However, when your mom asks you to take out the trash did you roll your eyes and let out a sigh? This is obeying your mom, but you did not honor her while you did it. So, we may obey but we may do so with a bad attitude or make our parents feel disrespected.

To be proper children with a proper human living we need to obey and honor our parents. Disobedience is related to rebellion. God cannot tolerate rebellion against His authority. Rebellion is the source of the world's troubles. As children who love God, we need to honor and obey our parents.

God has the absolute authority in the universe. He has put our parents over us to represent His authority. To rebel against your parent's authority is to rebel against God. We must subject ourselves to our parents' authority.

Practical Notes:

What would happen if no one obeyed the traffic lights? All the cars would crash into one another. What about if no one obeyed the police? There would be no safety or peace in our neighborhoods. Without authority there is anarchy and chaos. So, we must learn obedience and be a proper person.

1. What is the difference between "honor" and "obey"?
2. What is the reason for the troubles and the universal war between God and Satan?

Authority/Rebellion

Topic: God's Ten Words – Honoring Parents (3)

Ex 21:15 And he who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

Ex 21:17 And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

Pr 20:20 Whoever curses his father or his mother, / His lamp will go out in deep darkness.

Dt 27:16 Cursed is he who dishonors his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Focus:

To hit your parents or curse them is a very serious matter to God. In the Old Testament times this would mean death. In the New Testament time it means that God will judge that person severely at the time they meet God. There is nothing more severe than death. How fearful is this!

What is cursing? While hitting is physically harming someone, cursing means to wish someone harm or wish something bad would happen to them. So even if we do not hit our parents, we must not wish bad things upon them. With God, anything that we do quietly, under our breath, or in our heart is just as bad as if we did that thing. This shows that we lack the proper affection and love in our heart. We should have proper humanity that loves and respects our parents.

If you do not honor your parents, then your light will go out and you will be in deep darkness. Also, in Deuteronomy 27, if you don't respect your parents then people will have a hard time respecting you. God is light and He needs people to shine on this dark earth.

Practical Notes:

No matter what the situation, we must not get angry or fight with our parents. Even if they are talking with a loud voice, we must not yell or talk back to our parents.

What is the consequence of hitting a police officer? What is the consequence of hitting God?

In the physical world, what is the closest way we can hit or curse God?

Example when Paul mistakenly spoke when he was struck - Acts 23:4-5

(4) And those standing by said, Do you revile the high priest of God? (5) And Paul said, I did not know, brothers, that he is the high priest; for it is written, "You shall not speak evilly of the ruler of your people."

Use this coming week to only think positively of your parents. Whether they are making you do your homework, chores, or telling you not to do something, tell yourself that you are thankful and that you are lucky to have them as parents. Wish the best for them every day. This will be a blessing.

Topic: God's Ten Words – Honoring Parents (4)

Pr 4:1 Hear, *my* sons, the instruction of a father, / And be attentive, that you may gain understanding;

Pr 4:2 For I give you good teaching; / Do not forsake my instruction.

1P 2:17 Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

He 12:9 Furthermore we have had the fathers of our flesh as discipliners and we respected *them*; shall we not much more be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

Focus:

This commandment is so important to our relationship with both man and God. If you do not honor your parents, then you will find it difficult to be satisfied. Furthermore, you will find it easy to insult, lie, cheat, and steal. You will easily break all the other commandments.

By listening to your parents, you will grow in wisdom and understanding. Your parents have a lot to teach you about life, growing up, and knowing how to handle situations and feelings. You should ask your parents for advice and instruction. You should especially ask them to tell you their stories. If we listen and don't forsake the instruction of our parents, we can learn how to be a proper person, friend, and lover of God.

By honoring your parents, you will grow to have proper relationships with God, friends, family, and even the government. Our parents are the first family, friends and authority we experience. If we don't respect our parents, then how can you properly respect your friends and the police. Hebrews says that if we accept the discipline of our parents and respect them then we will also obey God and enjoy the blessing of life.

Practical Notes:

If we don't respect the time our parents want us to come home, then we will not respect the time our friends have to go home either. If they don't come home on time then they will get in trouble with their parents. This will create a big problem between you and your friends.

Our parents represent God's authority when we are children. If we learn to accept our parents' authority when we are young, then it will be much easier to accept God's authority directly when we get older.

1. How do you show honor and respect to your friends, family, and government?

Ask your parents how to honor others. They may say "open doors for others especially the needy", "thank your mother for cooking" or "thank a police officer or soldier for protecting you."

Appendix

Satan fell due to his rebellion against God. In time, Satan is frustrating God by leading “children of disobedience,” When God returns, Satan and His followers will be judged and cast into the lake of fire so God can reign in His glorious Kingdom forever.

The fall and judgement of Satan

"You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you." (Ezekiel 28:15)

"Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness. I cast you to the ground; I presented you before kings that they may look at you." (Ezekiel 28:17)

"How you have fallen from heaven, / O Daystar, son of the dawn! / How you have been hewn down to earth, / You who made nations fall prostrate! But you, you said in your heart: / I will ascend to heaven; / Above the stars of God / I will exalt my throne. / And I will sit upon the mount of assembly / In the uttermost parts of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; / I will make myself like the Most High. But you will be brought down to Sheol, / To the uttermost parts of the pit." (Isaiah 14:12-15)

"And his tail drags away the third part of the stars of heaven, and he cast them to the earth." (Revelation 12:4a)

"And the great dragon was cast down, the ancient serpent, he who is called the Devil and Satan, he who deceives the whole inhabited earth; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him." (Revelation 12:9)

"And He said to them, I was watching Satan fall like lightning out of heaven." (Luke 10:18)

"He who removes mountains, and they do not know it, / When He overturns them in His anger; Who shakes the earth from its place, / And its pillars shake; Who commands the sun, and it does not rise, / And seals up the stars;" (Job 9:5-7) – *God's responds to Satan's rebellion*

"Then He will say also to those on the left, Go away from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matthew 25:41)

"And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, Now has come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accuses them before our God day and night." (Revelation 12:10)

God's co-kings who know authority

"Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no authority, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years." (Revelation 20:6) Recovery Version

Topic: God's Ten Words – Do not Murder (1)

Verses:

Ex 20:13 You shall not kill.

Gn 9:6 Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.

Gn 9:1 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

Focus:

God's word requires us to preserve human life. Human life is a precious treasure in the sight of God. We should not damage humanity in any way. God would not even allow an ox to go unpunished if it destroyed someone's life. The human life was created for the fulfillment of God's purpose. For this reason, nothing is more valuable and precious to God than human life. Therefore, God requires that we preserve human life as much as possible and in every way.

These verses show us that God wants to bless man. It also shows us that God wants man, who was created in His image, to fill the earth (Gen 1:26; 9:1, 6). However, Satan does not want man to be blessed by God and he looks for every opportunity to subtract man from the earth.

The most incredible and the most important creature God made was man. This includes you and me. Man was better than anything else He created. Creation shows forth God's power and characteristics but only man has God's image and likeness. How valuable are you to God! Indeed, you and every single person on the planet is valuable to God. Yes, from the poorest to the richest and the most disabled to the most able. The bible says that we were all awesomely made!

Practical Notes:

If we obey every commandment then we will develop a proper humanity which will care for ourselves and everyone else. God needs people with proper humanity.

1. What things can lower the value of human life to us? (Jealousy, video games, TV shows)
2. Are you bothered when human death is portrayed on games, movies, or screens?
3. What way can we help preserve human life? (seat belts, not skydiving, eating well)
4. How do you feel when someone gets something they don't deserve? How do you feel when a naughty child gets treated better or even the same as you?

How you see other people. Do you see yourself better than a homeless person on the street? What if you came in last in a big race. Are you just as important as the one who got in first place? Turn it around. If you got first place, would you consider the last person equally as important as you? We will learn that jealousy leads to hate and how hate leads to murder. (Cain & Abel)

USE IF PROFITABLE: Why would someone want to kill someone else? Try using every commandment to show the cause and source of murder. (See below)

NOTES: EVERY COMMANDMENT RELATED TO MURDER

Use your discretion whether to use during class

*Murder as it relates to all the commandments

1. No other Gods: Other religious people have killed others in the name of their God. Example: Extreme Islamic Terrorism.
2. No Idols: People have killed because of something they followed. Hitler and the Nazis killed many Jews (and others) because they idolized a pure race that they thought is superior to all others.
3. Do not use God's name in Vain: Some people disrespect God so much that they have killed Christians because they would not deny God's name. These Christians who are killed because of the name of Jesus are called martyrs.
4. Remember the Sabbath: People with no humanity have cause others to suffer, hunger, and even die because of their greed. This is usually found in Asia, Africa, South America and other impoverished areas.
5. Honor your father and mother: There are stories in the news which children have killed their parents for their money or simply to gain their independence from them.
6. Thou shall not kill: Some killers are called serial. They have mental problems.
7. Thou shall not commit adultery: Some people kill to break up families for their advantage and desire.
8. Thou shall not steal: Some thieves have murdered because they want to steal what others have.
9. Thou shall not lie: Some have such terrible secrets that they will kill others if they tell the truth. Mobsters and people who are committing crimes do not want the truth to come out.
10. Thou shall not covet: This is desiring what others have. When someone breaks one of the other 9 commandments, there is always some level of coveting involved.

Topic: God's Ten Words – Do not Murder (2)

Verses:

Mt 5:22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, Raca, shall be liable to *the judgment of* the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, Moreh, shall be liable to the Gehenna of fire.

Gen 49:7a Cursed be their anger, for it is fierce; / And their wrath, for it is cruel

Lk 23:34 And Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. And dividing His garments, they cast lots.

1 John 4:8 He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

Focus

God's commandments not only cover the things we do but also the things we say and feel. Why? Because God looks upon our hearts. So even though we may be a good boy or girl outwardly, God will judge what we say and feel in our hearts. Part of the last lesson talked about valuing people. What does it look like when we don't value people? When we say or think to ourselves that someone is stupid, dumb, or an idiot we do not value that person. We do not have the proper humanity God wants us to have. Sometimes a person may say that another person is worthless. How terrible! We see that in these verses if you call someone stupid, dumb, an idiot, or worthless you will be judge by God. We must value people as God values them.

Sometimes our anger comes out. It comes out a little and at times it comes out a lot. No matter, we should not be angry with people. Anger and hate can make us say and do terrible things. In fact, anger and hate often comes from jealousy. If we are jealous of someone, we can be sure that hate or anger will soon follow. We can see that not only will God judge your anger, but you will be cursed for your anger (Gen 49:7). God wants us to live a life of blessing and not a life that is cursed.

Sometimes we are angry at people who bother us or mistreat us. Everyone who has a sibling knows that they can be a bother. However, even though they may bother us we cannot get angry with them. Let consider some people in the bible. At the time when Jesus and Stephen were being killed, they asked God to forgive the people who hated them. Wow, what wonderful humanity! Also, Paul and Peter never blamed anyone who mistreated them even while they were doing nice things for them.

Practical Notes:

Has anyone called you stupid? Did it make you feel valuable? We must value everyone. What have you been angry or jealous of? Afterwards did you think of stealing, lying, or hurting someone (pushing/cutting in line or ripping something out of a hand)?

Watch your anger. The bible says, "Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer," (1 John 3:15)

What does Raca mean? Fool, Worthless, Stupid, Senseless, idiot, (numbskull).

What does Moreh mean? Moron, Dull, Slow, Brainless, Foolish

Topic: God's Ten Words – Do not Murder (3)

Verses:

Ex 21:23 But if there is *further* mishap, then you shall give a life for a life,

Ex 21:24 An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a hand for a hand, a foot for a foot,

Ex 21:25 A burning for a burning, a wound for a wound, a stripe for a stripe.

Focus

Let us talk more about our temper and anger. We can lash out in our anger and do terrible things. We may pull someone's hair, break their toys, or even hit someone. However, we need to deal with our anger in a healthy way. If we don't then we may do something bad and be subject to punishment. The fear of punishment keeps everyone's bad behavior locked away.

God's righteousness is strict. This is what makes God's judgements fair. The verses show God's way of keeping order in society and stopping people from letting out their anger. An angry person may want to hit someone with a stick but he himself does not want to be hit. This is because they are not righteous and fair people. However, we see that if you do hit someone with a stick then you must be hit with a stick. If that stick breaks an arm, then you will have to stand still and have your arm broken with a stick. A bruise for a bruise and a break for a break. Oh, how we must lock up our anger, least we receive the same treatment in return.

If we don't receive the same treatment in return, we must be utterly thankful for mercy. Mercy is when you do not receive the punishment or treatment you really deserve. If you are a righteous person, then you will agree that these punishments are the most fair and reasonable judgements.

Practical Notes:

Today's government and laws have moved away from the strictness of God's law. But we can still get a lot of help from it. First, we can see how fair God is. Second, it can help us have the highest morality. It can also make us very sympathetic and empathetic people. These commandments help us really appreciate others and their sacrifice. Again, this helps us understand mercy and love.

You may do something that you regret in class, however, your friend may stand up and take the punishment for it even though you did it and you actually deserve the punishment. This selfless act would fill your heart with love and appreciation for your friend. Our friends may do this once or twice, but our parents do it all the time. Can you think of other stories?

If we see this, it will help us have the right feelings in our heart. Say you break someone's favorite toy. If you realized that this should mean that your favorite toy should be broken, then you will have the proper sadness and repentance toward your friend. Do you see how God's righteous law enables us to see and feel selfless love?

Topic: God's Ten Words – Adultery (1)

Verses:

Ex 20:14 You shall not commit adultery.

Mk 4:19 And the anxieties of the age and the deceitfulness of riches and the lusts for other things enter in and utterly choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

1J 2:16 Because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father but is of the world.

Pr 19:23 The fear of Jehovah *leads* to life, / And he *who has it* will lodge in contentment; / He will not be visited with evil.

Tt 1:8 But [be] hospitable, a lover of good, of a sober mind, righteous, holy, self-controlled;

Focus:

What is adultery? It is when a man marries more than one wife, or a woman marries more than one husband. Such a thing destroys families and brings confusion. It's an unhealthy situation. God's ordained that one man marries one woman (Mark 10:6-9). This is a healthy situation in which God can bless everyone, and they can fill the earth according to God's way. As we can see with the other commandments, God wants to preserve the family. A family/household is God's unit of blessing.

Why would a man or a woman commit adultery? Because lust makes them want more. Lust is the intense longing, craving, or desire. Even those who are not married still need this commandment because we all have experienced an intense craving or desire for something. It is okay to have a craving for ice cream, but we have to watch out when our desire for that ice cream becomes an intense craving. Our mind may not be able to stop thinking about ice cream. We may even dream about it. We can say that you are lusting after ice cream. This lust leads to disobeying any one of God's commandments. When we lust for various things you we will soon find ourselves willing to do anything for it. You may lie, steal, or cheat to get it. Lust is when you're not happy having one choice.

We must have a healthy fear of God. We must be content with what we have, or evil may visit us. There are people in the bible and around us that have learned the secret about being content. They are happy with what they have and don't need anything more. Contentment is tied to self-control.

Practical Notes:

The desire for more things, for worldly things will utterly choke God's word that's trying to grow in you. The stores you visit are designed to capture your eyes and make them lust. It is the same with screens. It is filled with worldly things for our lustful eyes. How long can you go without an intense desire rising within you to view videos or play games? It seems that you cannot sit still or be happy without a screen. The lust for it will make you do and say anything for it. Have you grabbed a phone out of someone's hand because there was something neat to see? That is stealing due to lust.

Some lust for friends, social status or acceptance. Instead of choosing classes they need they choose classes their friends are taking. Some will not say hi to someone because certain friends are looking. We may do something we wouldn't normally do so that we are liked by others. [Clicks].

Topic: God's Ten Words – Adultery (2)

May be healthy and appropriate for some 6th and all 7th graders

Verses:

Mt 5:28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman in order to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Rm 13:14b ...make no provision for the flesh to *fulfill its* lusts.

1Co 7:1 Now concerning the things of which you wrote: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

1Co 6:9-10 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be led astray; neither fornicators nor idolaters nor adulterers nor effeminate nor homosexuals ¹⁰Nor thieves nor the covetous, not drunkards, not revilers,...will inherit the kingdom of God.

Focus:

This commandment, like others, is not only talking about what we physically do but a matter of our heart. We must have a sober mind, a strong will, an emotion that loves God, and a pure conscience when considering this commandment. If so, then ourselves, our future marriage, and the church life will be sanctified. That is, a unique testimony for God's Kingdom.

The world and even some Christians today are loose when it comes to the opposite sex. We must follow God's way and God's timing regarding these things. Matthew 5 tells us that our eyes can get our heart into trouble. We must be watchful concerning what we allow our eyes to see and what we allow others to see. It's not good to stumble others. We can get into trouble if we are not careful how we touch someone from the opposite sex. Therefore, the bible says in 1 Corinthians 7 that it is not good for a man to touch a woman. If there is no pure reason to touch then it is better not to.

You may have seen in the meetings that the men and women don't sit together. Even during social events there is a proper separation. This is not odd but a healthy practice. Other people may see it as odd but the church is not for the world but God and His Kingdom. The church is God's kingdom people. The church follows God's word closely. Particularly when it says to make no provision or opportunity for the flesh. God's kingdom people do not want to be put into a place of temptation knowing that even though we love God there is a part of us that will always be weak (Matt 6:13; 26:41). This practice in the church life will preserve us and our living purely for God's testimony. There is nothing of the world in God. They are totally separate, even enemies (Gal 5:17; Ja 4:4). There should be a stark difference between the church (holy) and the world (ruled by Satan).

There is a very serious warning regarding our behavior and living. God's word is clear. It says do not be led astray (deceived), those with an unrighteous living will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Practical Notes: The best way not to fall into a well is not to walk around the well.

Topic: God's Ten Words – Stealing (1)

Verses:

Ex 20:15 You shall not steal.

Is 61:8a For I, Jehovah, love justice; / I hate robbery with wrong; / And I will faithfully give *them* their recompense...

Ac 4:34 For neither was anyone among them in need; for as many as were owners of lands or of houses sold *them* and brought the proceeds of the things which were sold

Ac 4:35 And placed *them* at the feet of the apostles; and it was distributed to each, as anyone had need.

Focus:

God commands us not to steal. Our God loves justice and hates stealing and what's wrong. If you steal or do wrong, then God says He will be faithful to give you what you deserve (recompense). Ask yourself, what do I deserve?

Stealing comes from greed. Greed is a desire to have what you don't have. Even worse, you want what others have. Greed and stealing are wrong. Don't be tricked, whether you are rich or poor, greed and stealing are wrong. We must be content with what we have.

If you are a loving person, you would not steal (Gal 5:14). People who steal from others lack proper human affection. They do not care for the needs of others or respect them. If you do not want what others have then you have a pure heart and do not have guile (hidden motive). We need to have a pure heart for the best relationships with family and friends. Such a person has proper humanity.

Practical Notes:

If someone is cold, then you should give them one of your jackets. If they are hungry, you should give them some of your food. If you are pure in heart, then you will not ask anything in return (guile).

1. Talk about how someone can have hidden motives (wanting something in return).
2. What are different kinds of stealing? Taking, damaging, destroying, losing, etc.

Do you know what your parents or your friends need? Do you ask your family and friends how they are? If we don't consider how others are doing, then we are acting selfishly. Being selfish and greedy go together. We should consider if any of our family or friends have a need and how we can help fill that need. This is a giving heart. A person with such a heart would not steal.

Homework: think about whether you have ever damaged, destroyed, lost, or took something without asking. From memory, think about the big things like a bike to the smallest thing like candy.

Topic: God's Ten Words – Stealing (2)

Verses:

Ex 21:33 And if a man opens a pit or if a man digs a pit and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls into it,

Ex 21:34 The owner of the pit shall make restitution; he shall give silver to its owner, and the dead *animal* shall be his.

Ex 22:1 If a man steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep.

Focus:

We have seen that God commands us not to steal because He hates stealing (Ex 20:15; Is 61:8). He will give those who steal what they deserve. In the bible, God considers all the different ways and situations in which we may take someone's property. Yes, if you read Exodus 21-23 you will realize how detailed our God is.

When we think of stealing, we may think of a thief. A thief will deserve a severe judgement on himself. However, there are other judgements. One of these judgements is called restitution which means to compensate, to make whole, or to restore. Stealing may take different forms, but it is all means to take someone's property in some way. You may damage, destroy, or lose a person's property. This also includes using something without asking permission. All cases may be on purpose (intentional) or by accident (unintentional). In all cases we must make it right.

Practical Notes:

When we use someone's property, we must realize that we are responsible and that we will have to restore the property if we lose or damage it in any way. If we have a proper and upright heart, then we will care for other people and their property. If we lose, damage, or destroy someone else's property it is just like we stole it. If you break off or lose a part of a toy, then you stole the full enjoyment of that toy to that person. That is a kind of stealing. Even using someone's pencil for a tiny bit is stealing if you didn't ask permission. You should be sad and feel that you must make it right even if it costs us our allowance, time, things, or pride. You must follow God's commandment.

1. What verse talks about a person losing someone's property by accident? How do you fix it?
2. What verse talks about stealing someone's property? How do you make it right?
3. Have you kept something you have found? Did you try to find the owner? God is detailed.

Have you stolen anything? Being required to replace something with another or even four times as many shows us God and His heart. God hating stealing means that God loves people. He wants to bless and give them joy. It also shows the great and mighty God respects people to the uttermost.

Topic: God's Ten Words – Lying (1)

Verses:

Ex 20:16 You shall not testify with false testimony against your neighbor.

Ex 23:1 You shall not bear a false report; do not join your hand with a wicked man to be a malicious witness.

Ac 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to deceive the Holy Spirit and to put aside for yourself some of the proceeds of the land?

Focus:

This commandment reveals that God is truthful. God cannot lie because He is righteous, but He also cannot lie because He is love. If you love someone you would never lie to them because lying damages people and damages relationships. The damage is from the betrayal of their trust. God's commandment will make us trustworthy people who love and care for others.

There are different kinds of lies. Misrepresentation, deception, manipulation, inaccuracies, false promises are all lies. Have you ever said that you cleaned your room, but you left your bed a mess? That is a lie. In Acts 5 Ananias told Peter that he sold his possessions and gave it to others. It was a lie. Yes, Ananias did sell his property, but he held something back for himself. He thought he was lying to Peter, but he was lying to God. Many lies come from something being withheld. We must tell the whole truth. You may deceive others, but God sees your heart and knows if you are lying. Lying shows that there is something wrong with our heart. Our heart is selfish and not pure.

Changing the facts is a lie, but also pretending and joking can be a lie. An innocent joke should not be believed by your friends as the truth. You should never let someone believe something that you are joking about. Otherwise, it is a lie. Humor is a kind of exaggeration. We use it in our stories because we care more about someone laughing than telling the truth. If you joke all the time, then people will not know when you are serious. Like a lie, what you say will not be clear or trustworthy.

You may say that you like something just to be accepted by others. You may lie to gain something for yourself (a better lunch) or to not get into trouble (homework). There are many reasons to lie but the source is darkness and the issue is confusion. It seems everyone lies a little, but God is different (Holy). With God there is no confusion but only clarity (Light). We can believe God because He is always truthful (Righteous) which makes us feel safe, loved, and cared for (Love).

Practical Notes:

Lying will make someone untrustworthy. Losing someone's trust is a terrible thing to happen. Trust is fragile. Why will it be hard to earn someone's trust after they have lied to that person?

Discuss how lying is vs being true, clear, unique, loving, care, safe, reliable. Treat others as yourself.

Topic: God's Ten Words – Lying (2)

Verses:

Rm 1:25 Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Is 5:20a Woe to those who call evil good, / And good evil; / Who put darkness for light, / And light for darkness;

Jn 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Ps 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet / And a light to my path.

Focus:

The word of God is truth! Everyone is looking for truth. If you don't have truth, then there is nothing to live your life by. You won't have a moral compass and worst of all, you won't have meaning to your human life. The word is not only truth but also light. It lights our feet so that we may know where we are, and to our path, so we know where we are going. If you are not already reading the bible, then ask your parents or serving ones about starting. Reading the bible will fill you with truth.

Without God's word there is darkness. With darkness there is confusion and nothing is clear. In such darkness you can easily stumble. When walking in a dark room you cannot be clear what is there. Even walking in your own bedroom, you cannot be sure if something was removed or something new was placed there. People stub their toes because it's difficult to walk in darkness. Without light you may not see a big bug crawling on the wall. If the room is full of light, then you will see (the truth) every detail including how dusty the room is. We need God and His word for light!

The whole world is under the control of Satan (1 Jn 5:19). The world being under the power of Satan brings in darkness. One way he brings in darkness is getting people to exchange, for different tempting reasons, truth for the lie and calling darkness light (Rom 1:25). This is utter confusion. People take what the obvious truth shown in nature and science and call it false so they can live their life their way – a life contrary to God. This is exchanging the truth for the lie. This is confusion and you can see it in your schools and society today. Do not believe anything that is against the bible, the word of God. The word of God is light. By reading it, you will be a light shining in the world.

Practical Notes:

An example of how light and truth are related. Say I gave you a flashlight but ask you not to turn it on and you walk into a dark room where I will help you avoid the chair that is in the middle. There are two ways to avoid the chair, either I tell the truth, or you simply turn on your flashlight. If I tell you the truth about the chair, then it is just like having the flashlight on.

Reading and living by God's word will sanctify you. That is, it makes us unique like God is (lesson 2).

Topic: God's Ten Words – Lying (3)

Verses:

Is 5:20a Woe to those who call evil good, / And good evil; / Who put darkness for light, / And light for darkness;

Jn 8:44b because there is no truth in [the devil]. When he speaks the lie, he speaks *it* out of his own *possessions*; for he is a liar and the father of it.

1 Jn 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Focus:

This commandment reveals that God is truthful. To obey this commandment, we also must be truthful. We are even told that He Himself is light and that with Him there is no darkness at all. Because He is light, He is truthful. Darkness comes from Satan. You can say it is his nature. Light comes from God, and it is His nature. This means that with God there is no falsehood. Therefore, God cannot lie. Satan, on the contrary, is full of lies and is the father of lies (John 8:44).

Where there is law, there is light. Law always enlightens (Psa 119:105; Jn 17:17). It makes a person's situation clear. If there was no speed limit sign, then you would not be clear how fast you may go. If we didn't have God's commandment, we would not know God and we would not know our true position. The law makes our situation clear. You may think that you are truthful but after reading God's commandments you realize that you are not. In addition, you may think that you care for and love others. However, after reading God's commandments and being enlightened to know God we realize that our love and care for others is shameful. No one wants to feel shameful, but it is better to know your true situation than not. Don't lie to yourself so you can feel better. As we talked about, this is what others do (Rm 1:25). God cannot be where darkness is; therefore, you must be truthful in your daily living. We pray that these lessons will bring you to know your real situation before God. Spend time by yourself to think about these things and asking God about it. Ask someone for help.

Practical Notes:

If you give me a sandwich then I know you went to the kitchen. The kitchen is the source of the sandwich. Then, if you give me the truth, I know the source of that truth is God. So, if you give me a lie, what then is the source of your lie? More so, where did you go to get that lie?

Lk 6:45 The good man, out of the good treasure of his heart, brings forth that which is good, and the evil man, out of the evil treasure of his heart, brings forth that which is evil; for out of the abundance of *his* heart his mouth speaks.

Compare Luke 6:45 (man) and John 8:44 (Satan). What are the similarities? What are the problems?

Topic: God's Ten Words – Covet (1)

Verses:

Ex 20:15 You shall not covet.

Pr 4:23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, / For from it are the issues of life.

Rm 13:9 For, “You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Focus:

We may think if we behave ourselves and watch what we do we may fulfill God's commandments. However, we have seen that God not only judges what you do but also what you feel, what is in your heart. This commandment that tells us not to covet is directly a matter of the heart. What is coveting? It is simply to desire something. Even a wish can be coveting. Do you wish you had something? Do you wish you felt a certain way? Yes, you can covet joy and even happiness. It seems all the world covets security, comfort, or acceptance (social media). Coveting will lead you to break all the commandments of God. Keep and guard your heart above everything!

These words also reveal that God is pure. Only God is pure, for those who are pure do not covet. His purity touches our heart. The fact that we are covetous indicates that we are not pure. Colossians 3:5 says that covetousness is idolatry. This is an example of how this commandment can be connected to others. We may be a very good boy or girl with the best behavior, but our heart is giving us trouble. You may not steal but in our heart, we want that thing we cannot have. This makes you guilty. Because God is pure, He can really love others. He gives freely without any selfishness or gain. God has given riches to those who we think don't deserve it or don't know Him. Why, because God's love is pure. You must love and care for others as God does for you. Consider His love.

Practical Notes:

How is coveting connected to an impure heart? You may desire to play your video games or hang out with friends. So, you do extra chores like the dishes or watch your baby brother hoping your parents will say yes when you ask for it. This is not pure. Why? You are doing extra chores so you may get your desire. You should do extra chores because it is the right thing to do, responsible, and helpful. Our duties and love for others should not be tied to our desires.

Some people say that if you are poor then you have a right to be greedy. Others say that stealing from the rich to give to the poor is honorable. No. This is wrong. No matter how much someone else has we cannot covet their wealth. If we got one piece of candy and our friend got 50 pieces, we should be happy for them and be content with what we have received (Rom. 12:15). This is proper humanity. The moment our heart covets, the door to break all the commandments is open. God is over all things. You need a heart that loves others as purely as God does (Luke 10:25-37).

Topic: God's Ten Words – Covet (2)

Verses:

James 2:10 breaks one breaks them all

Mk 7:21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil reasonings, fornications, thefts, murders,

Mk 7:22 Adulteries, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, foolishness.

Mk 7:23 All these wicked things proceed from within and defile the man.

Focus:

Remember what coveting means? To desire to have something. So, you must admit, just like Paul did in the bible (Rom 7) that it is impossible to keep this commandment. We break it nearly every hour. You may be able to control our behavior but it's impossible to control our heart.

Having a desire for something you don't have is the source of breaking all the commandments of God. It prevents you from having proper humanity and a loving heart. Not being content, not being thankful, or coveting can lead you to idolatry, having other gods or beliefs, swear by God's name, not have rest, dishonor your parents, have consuming thoughts, steal, lie, put others down, and even abandon our family. What the bible says in James 2:10 is very true. You are guilty of them all.

When you break a commandment, you might feel that you have a good reason. This is why you may argue with your parents. But here, every disobedience comes from and has evil reasonings. If we stop thinking about how we may have a reason for our actions and instead consider God and His word you will get real help.

This is your true problem. All the coveting and breaking of God's commandments defiles man's heart. The word defile means to be unclean or corrupt. Remember, our actions and behaviors will be judge by God. This is on the outside. However, there is a deeper problem. You are defiled from within. Just like there is a conflict between light and darkness, the pure God has a problem with your defiled heart. God must deal with your defilement. The way God deals with problems is by judging. We will see in another lesson that to establish His kingdom God must clear up everything.

Practical Notes:

A cup is good for drinking, but a cup with bleach is not. Even if the bleach is poured out no one would drink from it. The purpose of the cup with bleach has been spoiled. The contents corrupted.

Take time to consider God's commandments. What is your real condition before God? Spend time this week considering if God is happy with your behavior and with the purity of your heart.