



Long Story Short Series  
Knox Presbyterian Church  
Week 5: Covenant

*This week, groups should discuss week 5, 'Covenant,' and prepare for week 6 by reading Scripture on 'Waiting.'*

1. As usual, check in with your small group. What's happened since the last time you met? Share joys, concerns, and updates.
2. Our Scripture for today comes from Exodus 20.1-17, where God gives the Ten Commandments (or 'Decalogue'). Read it out loud and note one thing that strikes or surprises you, and one question you have. Discuss with your group.
3. One surprising claim Pastor Becca makes in her sermon is that true freedom does not come from doing whatever we want. It comes from following God's design for life. Does that statement surprise you? Does your life experience suggest that it is true? What voices in our culture would challenge that statement?
4. Pastor Becca says the Ten Commandments are meant to function as 'guardrails' for our Christian life. What does that mean? How is it different from other, less helpful perspectives?
5. Scholars often point out that the first four commandments focus our attention on God, while the last six commandments focus our attention on our neighbor. The Old Testament later summarizes the Decalogue by commanding us to love God and love our neighbor, and Jesus affirms these two 'great commandments.' Does it change your perspective on the Ten Commandments to see them this way?—as spelling out what it means to love God and our neighbor? If so, how?
6. Reflect on the commandment to love God and our neighbor, and on the specific commandments in the Decalogue. What is one way you can love God, or your neighbor, more fully by obeying them? How would your life be different if you did so? Discuss with your group, pray about it, and put it into practice this week.