

BreakThru

From Catechism to Christ

COMMANDMENTS: ME & GOD

LEARNING EVENT MAKE-UP

INTRODUCTION TO THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Open your *Lutheran Handbook* to **p. 196-201** for a list of the Ten Commandments. Take a few minutes just to get an idea of what is in there and what they mean.

As you read through the Ten Commandments as a whole, there are two important things to notice:

1. There is a **progression** in the Ten Commandments that goes something like this: The first thing we give God is our **hearts** (First Commandment). Then, we give God our **lips** and our **words** (Second Commandment). Finally, we give God our **actions** (Third through Tenth Commandments). Read through the commandments again and see if you can notice that progression.
2. Another way to look at the commandments is in the context of **relationships**. The first three commandments focus specifically on our relationship with God, while commandments four through six focus on our relationships with other people. Read through the commandments again and see if you can notice those relationships.

The Ten Commandments were originally given by **God** to **Moses** as the law to guide the Israelites. These commandments can be found in two places in the Old Testament of the Bible. Take a few minutes and look them up in your Bible: **Exodus 20:2-17** and **Deuteronomy 5:6-21**.

This week, we are going to focus specifically on the fourth through tenth commandments, which deal specifically with our relationships with other people.

COMMANDMENTS 4-10: A CLOSER LOOK

When Martin Luther wrote The Small Catechism, it was written specifically as a tool for helping parents teach their children about the basics of faith. For each of the commandments, Martin Luther wrote an explanation to help us further understand the commandments. The fourth through tenth commandments can be found on p. 198-201 in The Lutheran Handbook. Use the space below and those pages to unpack these commandments a little bit more together with your parent.

For each of the commandments, using the table on the next page:

1. **Write out the Commandment and Martin Luther's Explanation (aka his answer to the question What is this?).**
2. **Underline key words and phrases in Martin Luther's Explanation.**
3. **Write, in your own words, what the commandment means for you and your family.**



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BIBLE TIME

Look at what Jesus has to say about some of the commandments. Take a look at each of the passages below and answer the questions:

Bible Passage	Which commandment is Jesus referring to?	How does Jesus interpret the commandment?
Matthew 5:21-26		
Matthew 5:27-32		
Matthew 5:33-37		

Does Jesus raise or lower the bar? Why do you think Jesus does that?

How do Jesus' interpretations of the commandments make you feel?

REWRITE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Review all of the ten commandments and their meanings in *The Lutheran Handbook*. Then, in the table below, rewrite each of the commandments using positive terms instead of negative (ex. Instead of "you shall not..." write a "you shall...." commandment using your own words.) After rewriting the commandment, come up with one way that you see that commandment broken in the world today, and how you might be able to respond.

Commandment	Positive Rewrite	Where it's broken	How we can respond
<i>You shall not murder. (5th)</i>			
<i>You shall not commit adultery. (6th)</i>			
<i>You shall not steal. (7th)</i>			
<i>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (8th)</i>			
<i>You shall not covet... (9th & 10th)</i>			