

## THE THREAD | BEGINNINGS

### Lesson 12: The Ten Commandments

Dear Parents,

Hello again! We are on our next to last of the 13 lessons, looking at *Beginnings* in our study of the big-picture story of the Bible called *The Thread*. This lesson was entitled “The Ten Commandments.” The Ten Commandments show us that trying to earn salvation through obedience is a pointless endeavor. It’s impossible, and either leaves us prideful about how good (we think) we are or bitter and depressed because we always fail. It’s usually some sort of a combination of the two. Receiving salvation through trusting God’s grace takes the focus off of us and puts it on God. It isn’t a burden that we have to live up to; rather, it’s a great gift we get to receive. But we aren’t saved to be careless about how we live. We are saved to be a part of God’s family and reflect Him to the world around us.

**Lesson Overview:** In this lesson, we are going to look at the Israelites’ journey to inherit the Promised Land. Keep in mind that the Promised Land represents God’s faithfulness to His covenant with Abram. God kept His promise to make Abram the father of a great nation, but that nation needed a home. And that nation needed to know how to act as a nation set apart by God. The pathway to helping them know how to live as God’s people started with the Ten Commandments. This lesson will show students why the Ten Commandments were necessary and how we see God’s grace and love threaded through His giving of them.

**What We Want Your Teenager To Learn:** Realize that by following the Ten Commandments and the rest of the Law, the Israelites would be set apart as God’s people. Understand that through grace, not law, all who will believe in Jesus are welcomed into God’s family and are made holy in God’s sight.

**What We Want Your Teenager To Do With What They’ve Learned:** Gauge their attitude toward serving God, specifically in sharing the Gospel with those around them.

**Scripture Passages We Studied:** Exodus 19:1-6; Exodus 20:1-17; Titus 2:11-14

*Please Take A Few Minutes This Week To Read These Passages.*

## NEXT STEPS...

During the next week, as you engage in conversations with your teenager, remember that one way that will help them to understand and apply what they have learned is to explain it to someone else. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- You talked a lot about the commandments that God gave Moses to give to the Israelites. What do you think about the commandments? Do you think they were necessary? How do you feel about the Ten Commandments God gave?
- After a while, it was pretty obvious that the Israelites couldn’t keep all of the commandments all the time. And it’s clear that we can’t do it either. But why is this a big deal to God? Why do you think He can’t just move past it?
- So, the awesome thing is that even though we couldn’t live up to our side of the covenant, God sent Jesus to pay our penalty and provide a way for us to still be a part of His family. What do you think about this? Do you think we take this for granted? Or do you think it motivates us to do what God has called us to do and share it with others?

Thank you for all you do. As a parent, you are the primary spiritual influence in the life of your teenager, and they desperately need you. I’m praying for you! If you have any questions or if I can help with anything, please don’t hesitate to let me know.