

Super Sports Spectacular: 10 Commandment Cliff's Notes

Bible Passages: Matthew 22:34-40; James 1:22; Exodus 20:1-17

Bottom Line: To Play On God's Team, I Should Learn To Follow His Instructions

If you've played any football video game or in real life, you know that a playbook tells your team what to do. A playbook gets your team on the same page, (literally) and allows them to execute a play.

That playbook is based on a philosophy of how someone views the game. They can use information about the players they have and the players they are playing against. If a team has the right plays at the right time, they have a great chance to win the game.

God has a playbook for you, for your life. It was made for you, with you in mind. The Bible is the overall playbook for your life. A player's job is to know the playbook. How well do you know it?

Can you name the 10 Commandments? ...I'll wait. Did you name them? I hope so. Knowing these commandments are pretty important for a Christian. They tell us what God expects from us. They lay out how God wants us to treat Him and how we should treat other people. It's one of the biggest building blocks for anyone who wants to be a disciple of God.

Let's read them, because they are important. Exodus 20:1-17:

And God spoke all these words:

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me.

"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

"You shall not murder.

"You shall not commit adultery.

"You shall not steal.

"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Did you learn something new when you read it? I know that I have something jump out to me every time I read scripture. Don’t forget to write notes in your Bible about those things, or keep a journal. It’s a great way to see how God has been speaking to you through the years.

In the Jewish culture, it was common and expected for children to know by heart, (memorize) the first 5 books of the Old Testament known as the Torah or the Books of the Law. You think school is hard for you? Try that on for size. They knew God’s playbook.

Jesus, growing up as a Jewish boy would have know and learned the Torah and much of the Old Testament from the teachers in the Synagogue. It always fascinated me that Jesus would have to “learn” God’s Word, being that Jesus Himself is called “The Word” in John 1. I don’t know what those lessons were like. We do have some insight as one example of Jesus in the Temple in Luke 2:41-52. We aren’t going to read it now, but you really should. It’s all about Jesus at your age. Pretty cool stuff.

After this story in Luke 2, the next time we see Jesus is when He is in His ministry. Here we find Jesus in a heated situation with two groups of teachers, the Sadducees and Pharisees. These teachers of the law often tried to paint Jesus into a corner with questions that were designed to trap Him. Jesus silences the Sadducees by answering their question flawlessly. The Pharisees were anxious to have their crack at Jesus. Let’s read Matthew 22:34-40:

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

So here it is. Jesus was able to astonish His audience again with a perfect answer. Jesus was able to boil over 600 laws in the Old Testament, including the 10 commandments into 2. ***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’***

That is the playbook. You might never memorize the first 5 books of the Old Testament. You might not remember all the 10 commandments, (but you should try). You can definitely know Jesus’ commands; Love God, Love People.

Knowing however is only half. As you might remember from a previous series, James 1:22 holds an important point. ***Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*** Knowing and knowledge of the playbook is good, but if you never actually run a play, you will never get anywhere. Knowing about God’s law will not change you alone. Doing and living out those commands will change your life. I promise you!

QUESTION:

1. How will you put Jesus’ commandments into action this week? Be specific and make a plan.