

Family Discussion Guide:

Session 2 – The Ten Commandments

Week 1 – Readings, Prayers and Discussion Questions

*Use this sheet with your family members and keep it someplace near the dinner table, like on the fridge. At least three times this week at dinner or another time that fits your family schedule, use **Prayer Time** and one **Bible Reading** to make your confirmation learning come alive!*

Prayer Time

Begin by discussing the people and circumstances you wish to bring to God in prayer. Pray for those concerns as they arise. At other times you may wish to pray this prayer together:

Dear God, help us to know and follow your Commandments. We thank you for your faithfulness to your people, even when they ignore your truth, as we do at times. Amidst all of the franticness of our lives, we sometimes wonder just what we are trying to accomplish. Help us remember the reason we're here: to love one another as you have loved us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Bible Readings

During this week read the passages listed below and discuss the questions listed after them.

Reading and Discussion Time 1:

Daniel 3

Discuss: Talk about a time when trusting God or believing in God was hard for you. What helped you get through it with your faith intact? What can we learn from Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's faith that will help us in tough times?

Reading and Discussion Time 2:

Isaiah 43:1

Discuss: What kind of names or nicknames are you known by among family and friends? How do you feel when someone calls you by these names? What about those "not so kind" names? How do you feel when someone calls you those names? How do you think God feels when he hears his children call others the "not nice" names – or use his name in an unholy way?

Reading and Discussion Time 3:

Genesis 2:2-3

Discuss: Where and when do you feel closest to God? Do you find closeness in community with others or in time alone? Is there a place or time that is the same for everyone in your family?

Does your family have any Sabbath (day of rest) practices? If so, what are their origins? Are they a long-standing family tradition, a conscious family decision? If not, discuss together what kind of Sabbath practices you would like to begin.

Memory Assignment (Optional)

Each day during the week read and discuss the assigned Bible verse and one of the commandments and its explanation so that by the end of the week the words are memorized and the meaning known.

Assigned for this week are:

Genesis 2:3 And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Commandment 1: You shall have no other gods. (read the explanation in *Luther's Small Catechism*, page 11)

Commandment 2: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. (read the explanation in *Luther's Small Catechism*, pages 11-12)

Commandment 3: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. (read the explanation in *Luther's Small Catechism*, page 12)

Random Acts Of Kindness

*During this month, as a family, find **ONE** way to show your Christian faith to someone else by helping them in a small, unexpected way. Some suggestions are:*

- Pay attention to your day-to-day routine this week. Look for evidence of God at work in your life. Set aside time each night to share with one another at least one place where you noticed God active in your day.
- Go through the church directory and pick out five “forgotten” names – members who, for whatever reason, you haven’t seen in church for awhile. Make and send them a card to bless and brighten their day.
- Try a mini-Sabbath every night this week – set aside a mutually agreeable time, sit down, light a candle and read a passage of scripture together. Not sure where to start reading from the Bible? Try starting with the Gospel of Mark – it’s short, covers the life of Christ and his ministry, and will give you a great way to incorporate “Sabbath rest” on a regular basis.

Parents, remember to record on your Parent Report Form the progress of your student. This report should be brought back with the child to the next class session.

Family Discussion Guide: Week 2

The Ten Commandments

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Prayer Time

Begin by discussing the people and circumstances you wish to bring to God in prayer. Pray for those concerns as they arise. At other times you may wish to pray this prayer together:

Almighty God, we commend to your care all the homes where your people live. Keep them from bitterness and selfish pride; fill them with faith, virtue, wisdom, moderation, and patience. Let children and parents have full respect for one another, and light the fires of kindness among us all, that we may show affection for each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bible Readings

During this week read the passages listed below and discuss the questions listed after them.

Reading and Discussion Time 1:

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Discuss: St. Paul's description of love is most often read at wedding ceremonies, but look at it today through the eyes of a family. Talk with your family about how you currently express your love for one another. Are there ways you can express your love for one another through actions as well as words? Make a plan to show your love for a different family member each day this week. Surprise them by doing a chore without being asked or writing a note of encouragement.

Reading and Discussion Time 2:

Ephesians 4:29-32

Discuss: If you were graded on how well you put verse 29 into practice, what grade would you give yourself? Share with one another times when someone's words were hurtful to you and how that made you feel. Now turn it around and confess a time when what you said hurt someone else. How did you feel saying it? How do you feel about it now?

Reading and Discussion Time 3:

2 Samuel 11:1-12:23

Discuss: The story of King David and the beautiful Bathsheba would make an X-rated movie by today's standards! There's seduction, intrigue, war, sex, murder ... but there's also contrition, confession, repentance and forgiveness. David is often spoken of as a "man after God's own heart." What happened to him? How is his story also our story? What does this story tell us about the sanctity of relationship – and the consequences of breaking those promises?

Memory Assignment (Optional)

Each day during the week read and discuss one of the commandments and its explanation so that by the end of the week the words are memorized and the meaning known.

Assigned for this week are:

Commandment 4: Honor your father and your mother. (read explanation in *Luther's Small Catechism*, page 12)

Commandment 5: You shall not murder. (read explanation in *Luther's Small Catechism*, page 12)

Commandment 6: You shall not commit adultery. (read the explanation in *Luther's Small Catechism*, page 12)

Random Acts Of Kindness

During this month, as a family, find one way to show your Christian faith to someone else by helping them in a small, unexpected way. Some suggestions are:

- Pay attention to your day-to-day routine this week. Look for evidence of God at work in your life. Set aside time each night to share with one another at least one place where you noticed God active in your day.
- Go through the church directory and pick out five "forgotten" names – members who, for whatever reason, you haven't seen in church for awhile. Make and send them a card to bless and brighten their day.
- Try a mini-Sabbath every night this week – set aside a mutually agreeable time, sit down, light a candle and read a passage of scripture together. Not sure where to start reading from the Bible? Try starting with the Gospel of Mark – it's short, covers the life of Christ and his ministry, and will give you a great way to incorporate "Sabbath rest" on a regular basis.

Parents, remember to record on your Parent Report Form the progress of your student. This report should be brought back with the child to the next class session.

Family Discussion Guide: Week 3

The Ten Commandments

Use this sheet with your family members and keep it someplace near the dinner table, like on the fridge. At least three times this week at dinner or another time that fits your family schedule, use **Prayer Time** and one **Bible Reading** to make your confirmation learning come alive! Don't forget to finish your time by reciting the assigned **Bible Memory Verses** and the assigned **Commandments**.

Prayer Time

Begin by discussing the people and circumstances you wish to bring to God in prayer. Pray for those concerns as they arise. At other times you may wish to pray this prayer together:

Lord God, you know who I am and what I've done. Give me the courage to face the truth about myself, to recognize my failures, to know my inadequacies, to understand my weaknesses. Help me to see my sinful ways, repent of them and turn to you for guidance and wisdom. By your grace, help me to see how you provide deliverance from my sin and freedom to live for you. In Jesus' name. Amen

Bible Readings

During this week read the passages listed below and discuss the questions listed after them.

Reading and Discussion Time 1:

1 Kings 21:1-29

Discuss: The story of Naboth's Vineyard is a great study of the evil side of man. As you read it, list all the commandments broken by Ahab and Jezebel as well as others involved in the situation. What would you have done if you were Elijah?

Reading and Discussion Time 2:

John 15:9-17

Discuss: In this passage Jesus affirms God's love for all people by speaking of the loving way of life found in the commandments. How did the life Jesus lived model the commandments given in the Old Testament? What is the commandment Jesus gave? How does this relate to the Ten Commandments? Jesus' statement is radical and a huge challenge. He laid down his life for his friends. What does that mean for a life that follows Jesus? Jesus speaks of the life of joy and love found in loving God. How can you bear fruit and abide in Jesus' love?

Memory Assignment (Optional)

Each day during the week read and discuss one of the commandments and its explanation so that by the end of the week the words are memorized and the meaning known.

Assigned for this week are:

Commandment 7: You shall not steal. (read explanation in *Luther's Small Catechism*, page 13)

- Commandment 8: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. (read explanation in *Luther's Small Catechism*, page 13)
- Commandment 9: You shall not covet your neighbor's house. (read the explanation in *Luther's Small Catechism*, page 13)
- Commandment 10: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. (read the explanation in *Luther's Small Catechism*, pages 13-14)

Random Acts Of Kindness

*During this month, as a family, find **ONE** way to show your Christian faith to someone else by helping them in a small, unexpected way. Some suggestions are:*

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Parents, remember to record on your Parent Report Form the progress of your student. This report should be brought back with the child to the next class session.

Parent Report Form
Session 2: The Ten Commandments

Student's Name:

	Assignments	Check as items are completed
Week 1		
Readings	Daniel 3	
	Isaiah 43:1	
	Genesis 2:2-3	
Memorization	Genesis 2:3	
	Commandment 1	
	Commandment 2	
	Commandment 3	
Week 2		
Readings	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	
	Ephesians 4:29-32	
	2 Samuel 11:1- 12:23	
Memorization	Commandment 4	
	Commandment 5	
	Commandment 6	
Week 3		
Readings	1 Kings 21:1-29	
	John 15:9-17	
Memorization	Commandment 7	
	Commandment 8	
	Commandment 9	
	Commandment 10	
Random Acts of Kindness		
	Where did you see God in your day?	
	Thank you note	
	Family activity	
	Other: (specify)	
<i>Please give us some details of the project you did. It may give us ideas for others to become involved with in the future! Use the back of this form to tell us what you did and the impact it had on your family.</i>		

NEXT CLASS SESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2018, 10 am – 2 pm

Return this form at the next class session.

Parent's Signature _____ Date: _____