

## DAILY DEVOTIONS

### Day 1: God's Loving Standards

*Reading: Exodus 20:1-17*

As we read the Ten Commandments, let's shift our perspective from seeing them as restrictive rules to viewing them as loving guidelines from our Heavenly Father. Just as parents set boundaries to protect their children, God gives us these commandments out of deep love and concern for our well-being. Reflect on how each commandment is designed to lead us towards a life of freedom, peace, and fulfillment. How might your relationship with God change if you viewed His laws as expressions of His love rather than burdensome obligations?

### Day 2: Truth in a Changing World

*Reading: John 14:1-6, John 8:31-32*

In a world where truth seems increasingly relative, Jesus stands as the embodiment of absolute truth. He doesn't just speak truth; He is truth. As we navigate the complexities of our culture, let's anchor ourselves in Christ's unchanging nature. Consider areas in your life where you might be swayed by cultural relativism. How can you align your thoughts and actions more closely with God's eternal truths? Remember, embracing God's truth doesn't restrict us—it sets us free to live as we were designed to live.

### Day 3: God's Protective Love

*Reading: Psalm 91*

Today's passage beautifully illustrates God's desire to protect and shelter us. Like the high fence around a swimming pool, God's commandments and guidance serve as protective boundaries in our lives. Reflect on times when following God's ways has kept you safe from harm or regret. Are there areas in your life where you're tempted to "jump the fence" of God's protective love? Ask God for the wisdom to see His guidance as a blessing rather than a restriction.

### Day 4: Freedom Through Obedience

*Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-25*

Paul reminds us that we are called to freedom, but this freedom is paradoxically found in submission to God and service to others. As you read about the fruits of the Spirit, consider how living by God's standards actually liberates us from the bondage of sin and selfishness. In what ways have you experienced greater freedom by following God's ways? Pray for the Holy Spirit to empower you to live in the freedom Christ offers.

### Day 5: God's Heart for His People

*Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-13, Zephaniah 3:17*

These passages reveal God's tender heart towards His people. He's not a distant ruler issuing cold commands, but a loving Father who delights in us and has good plans for our future. As you meditate on these verses, imagine God speaking them directly to you. How does it feel to be the object of such divine love and attention? Close your week by writing a prayer of gratitude for God's loving heart and His desire for intimate relationship with you.

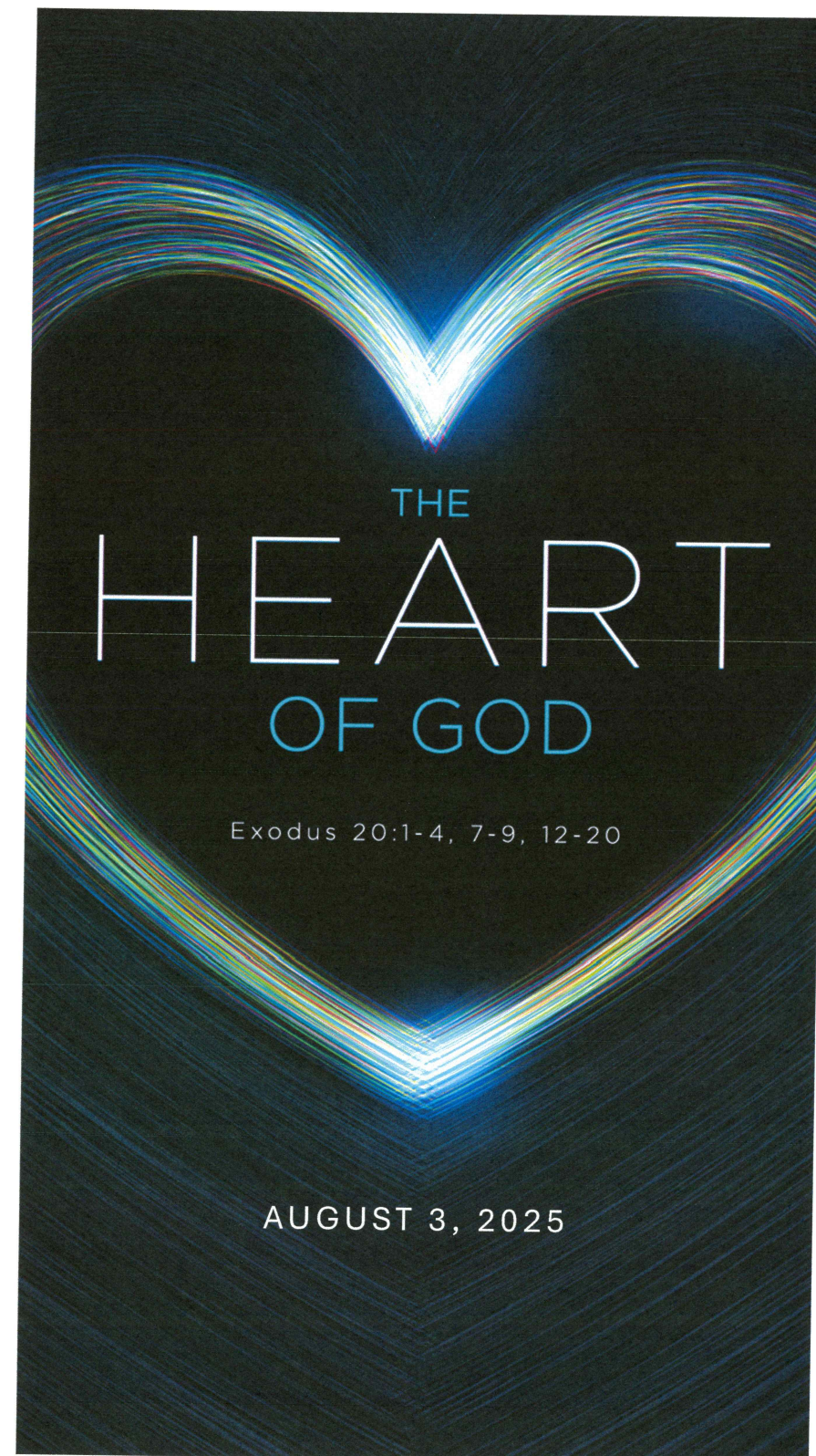
## DEACONS ON CALL

Cleve Bearden and Marc Traweck

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

- **WORSHIP:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **SMALL GROUPS:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **DEEP DIVE:** Wednesdays at Noon & 6:45 PM
- **FIRST KIDS:** Coming Soon
- **FIRST YOUTH:** See [firstplainsyouth.com](http://firstplainsyouth.com) for more info

## GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES ...





# Why Study the Ten Commandments?

Exodus 19:3-6

In our fast-paced, ever-changing world, it's easy to dismiss ancient teachings as outdated or irrelevant. But what if I told you that a set of rules written thousands of years ago could hold the key to navigating our modern moral landscape? Let's take a fresh look at the Ten Commandments and explore why they're more important now than ever before.

## Introduction

1. In our messed up cultural, we need to be reminded of God’s standards of \_\_\_\_\_.

We live in a world that has forgotten God’s basic standards. And as a result, many of us have lost the ability to discern what is true and what is right.

2. So many of us misunderstand the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Ten Commandments.

3. The Ten Commandments are \_\_\_\_\_ commandments!

**Scripture References (In order of use):** Exodus 20:1-20; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Deuteronomy 10:13; Exodus 19:3-6; Matthew 7:9-11; Jeremiah 29:11-13  
**Referenced Works:** Canne, Browne, Blayney, Scott (The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge); Be Delivered (Warren Wiersbe); Rick Warren (The Big Ten); Exodus (John Mackay); Exodus (Peter Enns); Exodus & Leviticus (B. H. Carroll)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share a time when you initially thought a rule or guideline was restrictive, but later realized it was actually beneficial or protective.
2. Read **Exodus 19:3-6**. Is there anything from the sermon you would like to discuss?
3. Patrick mentioned biblical illiteracy in our society. How have you observed this in your own experiences? Why do you think this is happening?
4. Reflect on **2 Timothy 3:1-5**. How do you see these prophecies manifesting in today's world?
5. How has your perception of the Ten Commandments changed after hearing this sermon?
6. Patrick compared God's commandments to a parent's rules for a child going to college. How does this analogy help you understand God's intentions behind His laws?
7. Discuss the statement: "God's laws bring freedom." How have you experienced this in your own life?
8. How can we help others understand that God's commandments are for our benefit and protection, rather than restriction?
9. Reflect on **Jeremiah 29:11-13**. How does this promise relate to obeying God's commandments?

## PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

- This week, choose one of the Ten Commandments to study in depth. Reflect on how it protects and benefits you.
- Make a list of ways you've seen God's protection through His guidelines in your life.
- If you struggle with viewing God's laws as restrictive, spend time in prayer asking God to help you see His loving intentions behind His commandments.
- Commit to memorizing the Ten Commandments over the next few weeks.