

Hey there! Pastor Gerber here again. Welcome back.

Today we are switching gears.

The last 12 lessons have been focused on teaching you more about the Bible.

We've looked at different books or different sections of books.

We spent 5 sessions just on the Gospels.

Do you remember what the 4 Gospel books are?

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy?

No? Oh wait. That was 5 books.

Do you remember what those 5 books were called?

Do you remember who wrote them?

Moses wrote those books and they are called the Torah or the Pentateuch.

So, back to the Gospels. Do you remember what they are?

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke were very similar, while John's Gospel had a different focus.

So, as we switch from looking at specific books of the Bible, what are we switching to?

We are switching to more catechetical teaching.

Huh? Catechetical?

We are going to start looking at Luther's Small Catechism and some of the teachings in there.

But, it's not like we're abandoning the Bible.

Notice that your memory verses will still be from the Bible.

However, I will be adding another memory assignment with most of these sessions.

The memory will come from Luther's Small Catechism.

Another thing that will be different in these sessions is that you will have the opportunity to complete multiple sessions before you need to come in for your discussion.

For example, today we are going to start looking at the Commandments.

There are actually 10 sessions on the commandments. Fitting, huh?

You don't need to come in between every session.

You can finish a few sessions and then come in.

Just make sure that you keep working!

Also, I'm not going to make you wait until you've finished all the sessions to recite your memory to me.

You can have your parents sign off on your memory at home. Just be aware that they may show up on your test...

But now, to the commandments.

There are 10 commandments. Before looking down at the list, how many can you remember?

1? 5? All 10?

Well, here they are!

1. You shall have no other gods.
2. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
3. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
4. Honor your father and you mother.
5. You shall not murder.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

You can find these Commandments in two places in the Bible: Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5.

You can also find them in Luther's Small Catechism. Page 11, if you have the maroon one.

Do you know who God gave these commandments to on Mount Sinai?

Well, look at which books the commandments are written in and see if you can remember who wrote those books.

We just talked about it at the beginning of this session.

God gave these commandments to Moses, while Moses was on Mount Sinai.

If you talk to some friends who aren't Lutheran, you might notice that they number the commandments differently.

Or, if you have a song that helps you remember the commandments, it might help you with the order, but probably won't help you with the numbering.

Many Christians divide the commandments differently.

They split up the 1st commandment and combine the 10th commandment.

So, 1 is have no other gods, 2 is don't make any idols. 9 is don't give false testimony. And 10 is don't covet.

If you look at the commandments in the Bible, there are actually 11.

It's confusing. Sorry. I didn't make these decisions. I just teach them.

But, we're going to use the numbering that is on your worksheet and in Luther's catechism.

These commandments can be broking into 2 sections.

See if you can figure out how to break them up into these two categories.

The first category is all about your relationship with God.

The second category is all about your relationship with others.

So, which commandments deal with your relationship with God?

Commandments 1-3. Have no other gods, do not misuse the Lord's name, remember the Sabbath.

Then, commandments 4-10 deal with your relationship with others.

Jesus actually sums up all the commandments into two commands in Mark 12:28-34.

Take a minute right now to read that.

Press pause now.

After reading that, can you sum up all the commandments into one word?

It should be pretty easy.

What are we supposed to do towards God and others? Love.

There are three uses, or purposes of the Law.

Those can be found in your Catechism on page 97, question 77.

The Law is to act as a curb, a mirror, and a guide.

Think of a curb on the side of the road.

What's it there for?

It keeps cars on the street.

It keeps kids in the yard.

It's a buffer between the street and your yard.

Basically, its purpose is to keep things where they should be.

That's what the Law does.

It keeps things where they should be.

It keeps order in the world.

It's a preventative measure.

Maybe you know that if you get caught lying, you will get all your tv privileges taken away for a week.

And you really like watching tv, especially because the season finale of your favorite show is this week.

Knowing that you wouldn't be able to watch that show if you got caught lying might just keep you from lying.

That's the first use of the Law.

Read 1 Timothy 1:9 and Romans 2:14-15. They can be found on page 97 of your Catechism.

The second use of the Law is to act as a mirror.

What do you use a mirror for?

Maybe in the morning or at night when you get out of the shower or are getting ready for bed.

Maybe while you're brushing your teeth.

I use a mirror to make sure that I don't have any food stuck in my teeth before I head to work.

I use the mirror to sure that I look presentable before I leave the house.

The Law acts in the same way here.

It shows us our sin.

It shows us when we have sin stuck between our teeth or when we don't look presentable, because we are covered in sin.

If we never looked in the mirror, we might make a fool of ourselves.

So, the Law helps us see our sin and see what areas of our lives we need to clean up.

When we talk about Law in a Law/Gospel sermon, this is usually the use of the Law that we are referring to.

Read Romans 3:20 and Romans 7:7. Again, they can be found on page 97 of your Catechism.

The Law also acts as a guide.

It guides us in the right direction.

It teaches us, as Christians, how to lead a God-pleasing life.

This use of the Law says 'Do this,' not because it will keep order in the world and not so that we can see that we aren't doing it, but to say "This is how a Christian acts, so you should do this, since you are a Christian.

It helps us to live a pure life. It helps us to be more like Jesus.

As Lutherans, we focus on having a balance of Law and Gospel.

Do you remember what the word 'Gospel' means?

It means good news.

The Gospel is the good news that Jesus came down to earth, lived a perfect life, died on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins, and then, 3 days later, rose again from the dead and conquered sin, death, and the devil.

We, as Lutherans, try to balance out this Law and Gospel because it's so easy to fall to either side.

If we focus too much on the Law (which we probably will as we are learning about the 10 Commandments)...

If we focus too much on the Law, we will quickly realize that we can't attain perfection as we are called to do.

So, it would be really easy to just give up.

If we focus too much on the Gospel, well, Jesus died for the forgiveness of my sins.

So, why do I need to worry about trying to not sin?

He's already taken care of them.

I might as well sin as much as I want. It sure would make life more fun and less stressful!

See, if we fall off to either side, we stop living a life that Jesus wants us to live.

So, we try and balance Law and Gospel.

Jesus calls us to be perfect, so we strive to be perfect.

But we know that we can't achieve perfection, so we thank God for the forgiveness that He has given us through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The main point today is that the ultimate purpose of the commandments is to bring us to Jesus.

That's all for today. As always, let me know if you have any questions! See you next time.