

Take the TEN Challenge

Take the challenge to memorize and meditate on the Ten Commandments over the next ten weeks. If you haven't already, you can pick up a bookmark in the lobby to help you. Memorize the TEN as a family, with your Community Group, or on your own. You'll be glad you did!

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (NIV)

- 1 - You shall have no other gods before me. (Exodus 20:3)
- 2 - You shall not make . . . bow down to . . . or worship an image. (Exodus 20:4-6)
- 3 - You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. (Exodus 20:7)
- 4 - Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. (Exodus 20:8-11)
- 5 - Honor your father and your mother. (Exodus 20:12)
- 6 - You shall not murder. (Exodus 20:13)
- 7 - You shall not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)
- 8 - You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15)
- 9 - You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)
- 10 - You shall not covet . . . anything that belongs to your neighbor. (Exodus 20:17)

Only ONE
the TEN series

Our children must KNOW that Christianity is about loving and following God, not just being good and going to church. Their hearts must be captured by the truths that God is real, awesome, and worthy of our worship. Nothing else will give our kids the good life we want them to have—or secure their eternity in Heaven. Moses instructs us parents to first love God ourselves, then talk with our children “diligently” about the what and why of God’s ways (Deut 6:4-9).

God and God Alone

When it comes to your heart, God puts a sign there: Maximum Heart Occupancy: Only One.

1. Read through the Ten Commandments on the back of this *Connections* or from your bookmark. As a group, work together on memorizing the first four.

2. The First Commandment (Exodus 20:3) could be translated in these ways:

- “You shall have no other gods before Me (that is, in My presence).”
- “You shall have no other gods besides Me (that is, in addition to Me).”
- “You shall have no other gods above Me (that is, preferred over Me).”

Which translation strikes you most? What would you say God wants us to understand through His first commandment?

3. What do the verses below teach us about God compared to everything and everyone else?

- Isaiah 43:10-13—
- Isaiah 45:5-7—
- Acts 17:22-31—
- Isaiah 44:6-8; Revelation 1:12-18—

4. What does it mean *practically* for us to worship God alone, to love Him only, for just Him to occupy our hearts? Consider these Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9—
- Deuteronomy 10:12-16—
- James 4:4-10—
- 1 Peter 1:6-9—

5. Pastor Dan said, “Before you even think about trying to keep the other nine, you first have to get this one right.” Why do you think this is true?

6. What could you do in this new year to grow in your love for and commitment to God alone?

You shall have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:3