

Memorize All TEN

According to a recent poll, 80% of American believe the Ten Commandments should be displayed in public places like courtrooms and schools. But only 40% can list more than four of them! God intends the Ten Commandments to be more than a symbol of morality. He wants us to know what they are, what they mean, and how to live them out in daily life. To that end, we're challenging our congregation to pick up a TEN bookmark and memorize the commandments. Here's the form we'll use:

the TEN
the TEN series

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)

Through the centuries, Christian parents have taught their children the Ten Commandments. In 1529, reformer Martin Luther began his shorter catechism (practical Christian instruction) with these words: “The Ten Commandments—As the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household.” So dads and moms, we encourage you to memorize the Ten Commandments with your children—make it fun! - and talk about what they mean in everyday life.

Take on the TEN

The Ten Commandments are presented in the Bible as the God-given constitutional core of the Israelite nation, a nation created to serve as an example for mankind. David Hazony

So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵ *Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian.*
Paul in Galatians 3:24-25

1. Read the summary of the Ten Commandments from the back of this *Connections* or from your bookmark. Will you take the challenge to memorize (or refresh your memory of) all the Commandments over the next 10 weeks?
2. Before you heard Pastor Dan's message, what role did you think the Ten Commandments have in our lives now? Check all that apply:
 - ☐ *In some way, I have to keep the Ten Commandments to go to heaven.*
 - ☐ *I don't need to worry about the Ten Commandments because they're not for us today.*
 - ☐ *I'm pretty sure they have something to do with my life today, but I'm not quite sure what.*
 - ☐ *I believe our country needs to get back to the Ten Commandments more than anything else right now.*
3. What do you think now?

4. Look up Exodus 20:1-17 in your Bible. Working in "study groups" of 3-4 people, note five observations you have about the Commandments—how they're worded, what order they're in, how they begin and end, etc. Share your observations with your whole group when you're ready.
5. What else do you learn about the Commandments from these verses:
 - Exodus 20:5-6; John 14:15—
 - Exodus 19:5-6 and 1 Peter 2:9-10—
 - Exodus 19:3-8; Deuteronomy 4:13—
 - Hebrews 8:7-13; Luke 22:20—
6. What two questions would you like to get answers to as we study the Ten Commandments?

And God spoke all these words: 2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. Exodus 20:1-2