

Adult Group Study Guide for August 2, 2020

Series: "Exodus"

Message: "The Big Ten, Part 2"

Goal: To receive the Ten Commandments as a gift from God.

Key Verse: *"If you love me, keep my commands."* – John 14:15 (NIV2011)

1. The second tablet (the last six of the Ten Commandments) focuses on how we are to live in relationship with one another. Read through the commandments in Exodus 20:12-17. In what ways are these commandments a reliable guide for living? (See Psalm 1 and Matthew 7:12.) [For help in interpreting the last six commandments, Google "Heidelberg Catechism" and read HC Q&A 103-115.]
2. "Honor your father and mother" is the first commandment of the second tablet. What does this position suggest about its importance? Read Ephesians 6:1-4. What is the significance of the promise linked to this commandment? Read Mark 7:9-13. Why was Jesus upset? List some ways we can honor our parents.
3. "You shall not murder." (Exodus 20:13) The Heidelberg Catechism (Q&A 105-107) follows the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 5:21-24 and expands the law to other ways to harm a neighbor (calling someone a fool). Q&A 107 goes one step further and says that "God wants us to love our neighbors as ourselves, to be patient, peace-loving, gentle, merciful, and friendly toward them, to protect them from harm as much as we can, and to do good even to our enemies." Read Romans 12:9-21. What is the opposite of murder?
4. "You shall not commit adultery." (Exodus 20:14) Read Matthew 5:27-28. Where does an act of unfaithfulness begin? Read Ephesians 5:22-33. Why does Jesus use marriage as an analogy for his relationship to the church? What does that analogy teach us about our marriage relationships?
5. "You shall not steal." (Exodus 20:15) Read James 5:1-6. What are some other examples of stealing? (See the list in HC Q&A 110.) Read Ephesians 4:28. What does Paul teach us about the proper motivation for avoiding theft? What is the opposite of stealing?
6. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16) Read Proverbs 6:16-19. What are the six things that the Lord hates? Read Ephesians 4:25. What does Paul say is the reason for speaking the truth to each other?
7. "Do not covet." (Exodus 20:17) Read Luke 12:15. What argument did Jesus use against coveting? Read 1 Timothy 6:10. Where does the love for money lead us? How is coveting the starting point for breaking all of the previous five commandments? (James 4:1-2)
8. Read Romans 13:8-10. How does loving our neighbor fulfill the law? Why does Scripture teach us that we should honor one another? (Romans 12:10) How will you do that today?