

Getting Started

When did you first become aware of the Ten Commandments?

Word

Read aloud Exodus 20:1-21

1. As with any story in the Scripture, it's imperative to understand the context. Read chapter 19 to capture some what is going on in the larger story of God's people. It's now about three months after the people of God have escaped from the Pharaoh and the Egyptians through the parted waters of the Red Sea (Ex 19:1), the most dramatic story in the Old Testament. They have begun their journey to the Promised Land over these three months. Now they come to the mountain of God in Sinai, the same mountain where Moses saw the burning bush. It was then that God promised that he, Moses, would bring God's people to worship on this same mountain (see Ex 3:12). (The mountain is called Mt. Sinai or Mt. Horeb.)

2. Note in particular God's words to Moses in Ex 19:5-6. What do we learn about God here? What is a "covenant"? How were God's people to keep this covenant?

3. Read also Ex 3:16-25. What does all of this drama tell us about our God?

4. Now look again at Ex 20:1-21. Spend time identifying each of the commandments. Ask questions, make comments about what you discover. Notice they are not called the "Ten Commandments" at this point, but "these words" (20:1).

5. The commandments or "words" are usually divided in two categories: commandments dealing with God (1-4); commandments dealing with others (5-10). Jesus' "great commandment" to love God and love neighbor captures both.

6. In the weeks ahead, we'll cover each commandment in depth. But in your initial reading of the commandments for this series, which one or two most challenge you? How can the Ten Commandments be valuable in your life of faith?

Share

Invite the people in your group to share any blessings or concerns they have from the past week.

Prayer

Pray for each other in sentence prayers.

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April 15, 2018

God's Top Ten

Exodus 20:1-21

Sermon Notes

1. Why is the context of the Ten Commandments important for understanding them?

2. What are the two basic categories of the commandments?

"With the possible exception of some of the stories in Genesis or Psalm 23, we come to what may be the most widely known portion of Scripture in all of the Old Testament, the Ten Commandments. These verses have been read, pondered, and memorized more than almost any others. Even on the popular level in today's supposed post-Christian culture, the average person on the street has at least some passing acquaintance with what these laws contain and from where they originated."
Peter Enns

Events/reminders for the coming week:

People you want to pray for:

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