

Sunday School Stories – 10 Commandments
Jonathan Cleveland
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Reflection & Discussion Questions

God gives the law in the 10 Commandments

He introduces His people to the principles that will help them become a society and culture that embodies the values of God.

*What do you remember about these commands from your earlier learnings of them?

*What words or feelings do you associate with the 10 Commandments?

Commandments are about love not moralism

God wants to lead us to a life full of freedom and flourishing.

*What is the importance to understanding the ‘why’ behind the laws?

*Are there times you have missed the point of one of the commandments?

*What does the context of the generational slavery of the people lend to our understanding of the 10 Commandments? What effect could new freedom have on the way they would lead their lives?

These commands are given because He is passionate about these people

Read and discuss Exodus 20:1-17(NIV)

20 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.

³“You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

*Take a few moments with the commands individually: how is each about God fighting for His people to stay free and flourish?

*What does it mean for you to understand these verses through the lens of love rather than anger or control?

Fear and insecurity lead us to want a go-between

Read and discuss Exodus 20:18-21 (NIV)

18 When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance ¹⁹ and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."

20 Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning."

21 The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

*What do we see about people from this passage?

*How have you ever turned away or wanted to avoid doing the hard work of relating to God yourself?

*Where do you need to trust the heart of God is for you? Are there places you can identify that he desires your flourishing and freedom right now?

*Is there a command that He wants to reframe for you in light of His love?