

# God's Good Rules

## "Why We Have Rules"

### Lessons from the Bible : Exodus 20:1-17

**Object Lesson Props & Optional Materials:** Simple kid's board game:

### Lesson – Start with Object Lesson:

Begin with an age appropriate, quick-play board game. Make sure the games' rules are readily available! As students play, listen to their discussions and observe how they use the rules to help facilitate proper game play. When they are unsure how to play or get into an argument, remind them to refer to the rules.

### Children's Bible Lesson "Why do we have rules?"

- Open in prayer, then say, you all did a good job following the rules to play the games! What would have happened if no one knew the rules to the game?
- Could you have played it properly?
- What if while I was playing, I decided I didn't want to follow the rules at all?
- When someone chooses not to follow the rules, it makes it a lot harder to have fun together, doesn't it?

In our homes, we have rules that everyone is expected to follow. For example, we may have a "no tech at the dinner table" rule.

Can you tell me some of the rules that you have in your home. (Allow students to answer.

It sounds like you have certain rules in your home that help everyone to get along and be healthy and safe. Can you think of anywhere else we have rules? (Allow students to answer. Some examples include school, public pool, speed limits, or unstated social rules such as no cutting in line or not answering your phone during the church service.)

It seems like there are rules everywhere! Why do you think we have so many rules we have to follow? (Allow students to answer. Rules help us get along nicely with one another and to stay healthy, safe, and happy.

- Did you know God has rules too?
- The Bible is full of instructions on how to live our best, most loving lives. These instructions are often called laws. There are ten laws in particular that we are going to focus on for the next few weeks.
- You may know them better as the Ten Commandments. Let's take time to read them now.

## **Read: Exodus 20:1-17**

### **The Ten Commandments**

*1 Then God spoke all these words:*

*2 "I am the Lord your God. I brought you out of the land of Egypt where you were slaves.*

*3 "You must not have any other gods except me.*

*4 "You must not make for yourselves any idols. Don't make something that looks like anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the water below the land. <sup>5</sup> You must not worship or serve any idol. This is because I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God. A person may sin against me and hate me. I will punish his children, even his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. <sup>6</sup> But I will be very kind to thousands who love me and obey my commands.*

*7 "You must not use the name of the Lord your God thoughtlessly. The Lord will punish anyone who is guilty and misuses his name.*

*8 "Remember to keep the Sabbath as a holy day. <sup>9</sup> You may work and get everything done during six days each week. <sup>10</sup> But the seventh day is a day of rest to honor the Lord your God. On that day no one may do any work: not you, your son or daughter, or your men or women slaves. Neither your animals nor the foreigners living in your cities may work. <sup>11</sup> The reason is that in six days the Lord made everything. He made the sky, earth, sea and everything in them. And on the seventh day, he rested. So the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

*12 "Honor your father and your mother. Then you will live a long time in the land. The Lord your God is going to give you this land.*

*13 "You must not murder anyone.*

*14 "You must not be guilty of adultery.*

*15 "You must not steal.*

*16 "You must not tell lies about your neighbor in court.*

*17 "You must not want to take your neighbor's house. You must not want his wife or his men or women slaves. You must not want his ox or his donkey. You must not want to take anything that belongs to your neighbor."*

## **Discussion:**

Wow! I don't know about you, but reading through all that makes my head spin!

Don't worry though, today we're just going to talk about the Ten Commandments in general, and over the next several weeks we'll learn about the Commandments one by one.

Today I want to focus on the importance of following the rules. Can anyone remind me why we follow rules? **(Because rules help us get along nicely with one another and to stay healthy, safe, and happy).**

There is one very important thing to remember, though. We are not saved by following the Ten Commandments. Following the law is not how we get to heaven. The only way to live forever in heaven with Jesus is by trusting Him.

## **Let's Read: Galatians 2:16:**

*Yet we know that a person is not made right with God by following the law. No! It is trusting in Jesus Christ that makes a person right with God. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus, that we might be made right with God. And we are right with God because we trusted in Christ—not because we followed the law. For no one can be made right with God by following the law.*

Isn't that GREAT news? I know I could never follow all the rules, just right, all the time, for my whole life. And thank God, I don't have to. All I have to do is believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins and now lives in my heart.

- **Let's read what Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us:**

*<sup>8</sup> I mean that you have been saved by grace because you believe. You did not save yourselves. It was a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> You cannot brag that you are saved by the work you have done.*

So that brings up a question. *Do we have to follow the Ten Commandments, or not?*

As we learned from Galatians 2:6, the law cannot make us right with God. Only our faith in Jesus can do that. God's love for you will never, ever change. God will always, always, ALWAYS love you, no matter what you do. So no, we don't have to follow the rules to be loved by God. But yes, following the Ten Commandments will help us live the life God has planned for us. Following God's commands helps us to love him better and love each other better.

*"Love your neighbor as yourself." "Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law."*

The whole point of God's law is for people to show love to Him and to one another. If you're stealing from someone, you aren't showing them love, are you? And if you disrespect God by worshiping something else, that isn't showing God that you love him.

The Ten Commandments aren't meant to help us get to heaven. The only way to get to live forever in heaven is to ask Jesus to live in your heart, and to do your best to follow him.

We show Jesus we love and follow Him by loving our neighbors, and the Ten Commandments show us some ways to do that. God's rules help us get along nicely with one another and to stay healthy, safe, and happy. Over the next several weeks, we will look at each commandment one by one, and then we will have a week to review everything we've learned.

### **10 Commandments in simple terms.**

1. Put God first
2. No fake gods
3. Respect God's name
4. Respect God's day of rest
5. Respect your parents
6. Do not kill people
7. Respect marriage
8. Do not steal
9. Do not lie
10. Do not be jealous

### **Bible Verse**

Psalm 119:1-2: "Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the Lord. Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts."

**End In Prayer:**

## Activities:

- Make Flash Cards to start memorizing 10 commandments. Use the simple terms listed above.
- Ten Commandments Coloring Page
- Alternate 10 Commandments Coloring Page
- Ten Commandments Word Search

Video: God's Story – The 10 Commandments

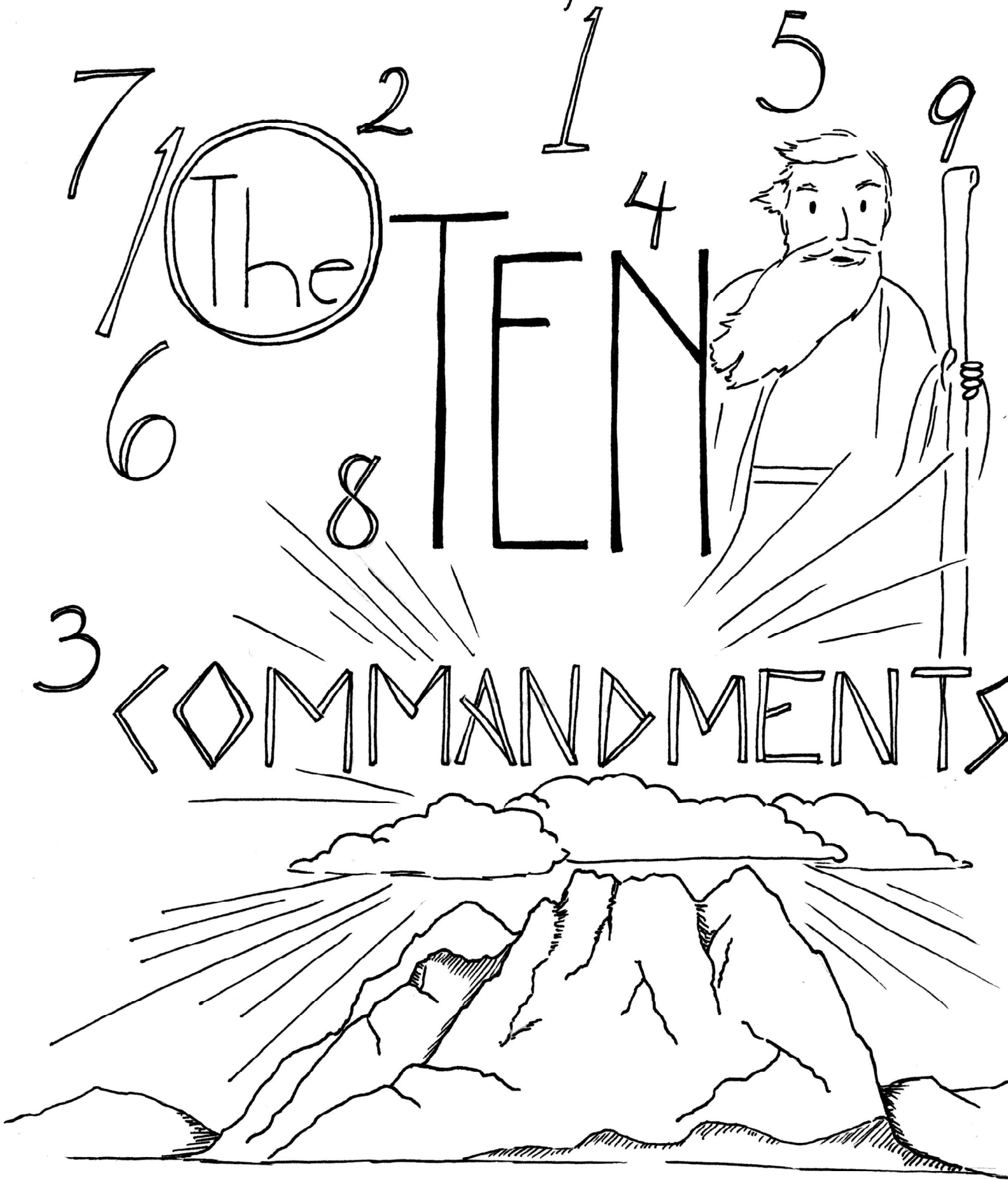
<https://youtu.be/aX28nAB4S7A>

Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went!  
Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day &  
Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

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The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain"...



# The 10 Commandments



**Exodus 20:1-17**



# The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20: 1-17

How well do you know the Ten Commandments?

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below. Then search for those words in the box.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | A | S | B | U | W | M | C | O | V | E | T |
| S | F | A | T | H | E | R | N | A | B | Y | D |
| A | I | B | V | A | H | C | I | D | U | L | T |
| L | E | B | E | R | I | P | R | U | A | F | L |
| P | O | A | T | L | E | O | S | L | S | N | G |
| E | S | T | E | A | L | M | R | T | U | Q | O |
| W | E | H | L | L | S | T | O | A | C | M | D |
| K | R | T | E | K | L | A | P | R | E | E | S |
| I | D | O | L | S | N | O | S | Y | W | A | N |
| L | E | K | S | T | R | A | I | P | C | N | I |
| L | I | E | F | M | O | T | H | E | R | E | A |

- Do not have any \_\_\_\_\_ before me.
- Do not make \_\_\_\_\_ for yourselves.
- Do not take the name of the \_\_\_\_\_ in vain.
- Remember to keep the \_\_\_\_\_ day holy.
- Honor your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Do not \_\_\_\_\_ anyone.
- Do not commit \_\_\_\_\_.
- Do not \_\_\_\_\_.
- Do not \_\_\_\_\_.
- Do not \_\_\_\_\_ other people's things.

