



# The Ten Commandments Show Us Our Sin

## MAIN IDEAS

- **God's laws are perfect, right, and good.**
- **Sinful people are not able to obey God's commands as He expects them to.**
- **The Law shows us that we are helpless in our sin and must trust God.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.*  
—Romans 8:7

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Exodus 32:1-8
- 2) Romans 8:7



## LESSON SUMMARY

Last week we learned that God's laws are perfect, true, and right. These laws, and the Ten Commandments in particular, were given to God's people to reveal how they should image forth the greatness and worth of God. Too often though, we miss the point that the Law also reveals to us our inability to measure up to valuing the greatness and worth of God most of all. In this lesson this is seen by the narrative in Exodus 32:1-8 in which Israel builds an idol to worship.

By nature, we are sinful people, hostile and rebellious to the commands of God. Therefore, the Law—perfect and good as it is—is also our death warrant. Where then is our hope? Faith in God! The Law was given to lead desperate sinners to be totally dependent on the gracious provision of God for salvation, so that we will look to God to give to us what He expects from us, namely His righteousness. As Galatians 3:23-24 states: “Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.”

## PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child...



- *praise God that in His mercy He saves everyone who is trusting in Jesus from the condemnation of the law that you might now be free to walk in obedience to Him through the justifying work of Christ.*
- *pray that you would both see how perfect and good God's law is, and how far you fall short of obeying it.*
- *pray that you would see your helplessness and run to God in faith and repentance.*

**AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY**

Talk about the meaning of Romans 7:12 and 8:7.

- Give your child an example of some good rules that you have given: **Have daddy and mommy given you any rules that were sometimes hard to obey?** For example: “I want you to share your new toy with your brother.” **Why was it hard to obey? What does that tell you about your heart?**
- **How are God's commands like a mirror for our heart? What do we see about ourselves when we look at the**

**Ten Commandments? Do we always obey God's good and perfect rules?**

- **How does it feel knowing that you are not able to keep all of God's commands? How can you please God when you are sinful? How did Abel, Noah, and Abraham please God?** [by trusting in God alone and in his provision—by faith in God and in his Son; see Hebrews 11:6a] **Who does God want you to put your trust in?** [Jesus]

**ACTION STEP**

This week, cut out the shape of a heart using dark colored paper. Tape the heart to the bathroom mirror. When you look into the mirror and see the heart, remember that you are a sinner. Pray and ask God to forgive you.

For the mind that is  
set on the flesh  
is hostile to  
God, for it does  
not submit  
to God's law;  
indeed,  
it cannot.

*Romans 8:7*



# COMMANDMENTS AND CONNECTIONS

Use the points below to help children connect God's law with God's character.

For young kids, give them cards with numbers 1-10. When you read out one of the commands (in red) and its connection (in black), have your child hold up the number for the matching commandment.

For older kids, have them turn in their Bibles to Exodus 20:1-17. Read a connection (in black). Have your child find the matching command in their Bible and read it to you.

## God's commands show us what He is like:

1. ***"You shall have no other gods before me"*** shows us that God is greater than all other gods. He is worthy to be praised.
2. ***"You shall not make for yourself a carved image"*** shows us that God is so great that his greatness cannot be shown by anything that man could make.
3. ***"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain"*** shows us that God's name and reputation is precious because God is most valuable and worthy.
4. ***"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy"*** shows us that we can rest because God is able to provide for his children.
5. ***"Honor your father and your mother"*** shows us that God wants us to honor those who are in authority—those who have a position above us—because God, the greatest authority, is worthy of honor.
6. ***"You shall not murder"*** tells us to respect the life of others because God is the Creator of life.
7. ***"You shall not commit adultery"*** commands us to be faithful because God is a faithful God.
8. ***"You shall not steal"*** tells us that God gives us all things and knows just what to give us. We do not need to take from others because God is wise and knows how much each person should have.
9. ***"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"*** tells us not to lie because God is not a liar.
10. ***"You shall not covet"*** teaches us that God is the greatest treasure. When we have God, we have all we need.

# WHAT'S ON MY FACE? STICKER GAME

Play this game with your children to help them understand that we need God's law to show us our hearts and that as we read God's Word, it helps us know who we really are and what's gone wrong!

Place a different sticker on the forehead or chin of each player. (This should be done without the person seeing which sticker is placed on them.) Then, each person asks the others three questions about his or her sticker. Based on the answers, can everybody guess what their sticker is? Finally, pass around a mirror so that everyone can see their sticker. Review how God's law acts like a mirror showing us our sin.