

X: the ten

No Other Gods | No Idols

Sermon Study Guide 10|02|16

The Story Houston

Guiding Questions for Chapter Groups, Family or Solo Study:

OK, first things first. If we're going to spend two months talking about the Ten Commandments, we should at least try to know them:

Tablet 1: Relationship with _____.

1. You shall have no _____.
2. You shall not make or worship _____.
3. You shall not misuse _____.
4. Remember the _____.

Tablet 2: Relationships with _____.

1. Honor your _____.
2. You shall not _____.
3. You shall not _____.
4. You shall not _____.
5. You shall not _____.
6. You shall not _____.

Backstory: As briefly as possible, describe what events led to God giving Moses the Ten Commandments.

For reference, check out the scripture timeline over there

Scripture and Quotes:

Genesis 2:25 Adam and Eve were naked, and they were not ashamed.

Gen. 3:6 So Eve took of its fruit and ate, and she gave some to her husband.

Gen. 4:8 Cain killed his brother Abel.

Gen. 6:11 God saw that the earth was corrupt and full of violence. He said to Noah, "I will put an end to this."

Gen 9:13 "My bow in the sky is a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

Gen 17:5-7 "Your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of many nations. I will make a covenant between me and you, an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendents."

Gen 37 Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him, threw him in a pit...and sold him as a slave..

Gen 41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this...I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

Exodus 1 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said, "Look, the Israelites are more numerous and powerful than we...so they set masters over them to oppress them."

Ex 14 Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back; the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall on both sides of them.

Ex 16 The Israelites complained against Moses in the wilderness: "If only we had died in Egypt, when we sat and ate our fill of bread. For you have brought us out here to kill us all with hunger."

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In light of everything that had just happened, what was God's purpose for sharing the Ten Commandments?

Why do you think Law is necessary for people living chaotic, sinful lives? *How might the Ten Commandments be practically applicable for new believers and skeptics who are rebuilding their faith?*

For the Israelites, what was the connection between Law and Love? How did this connection shape the life and ministry of Jesus?

What does God's "jealousy" tell us about His nature, and about His plans for us? Also - how do we make sense of God "punishing" future generations of people for one person's unfaithfulness?

Serious question: **do you just know God, or can you honestly say you love God? What's the difference? How can a person be sure he or she loves God?**

What are the things, people, ambitions, and priorities in your life that may qualify as "idols" - taking the place in our hearts where only God belongs, and receiving the love that only God deserves?

Pray: Lord, help me to keep first things first. I confess I have cared more about knowing you than I have about loving you, and I confess I've taken your love and care for me for granted. Thank you for being patient and forgiving with me. I do love you, and I want to love you more. In Jesus' name, amen.

Exodus 20:1-6 And God spoke all these words: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and fourth generation or those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my words.

Deuteronomy 6:5 The Lord alone is our God. You shall love your God with all your heart, soul, and strength."

Mark 12:28-31 One of the scribes came near...and asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the greatest of all?" Jesus said, "'Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one. You shall love the Lord with all your heart...soul...mind... and strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate one and love the other, or you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

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