

THE GOSPEL PROJECT

UNIT 05

GOD'S GOOD CHARACTER



EXODUS 19–40; LEVITICUS



MEMORY VERSES

“The LORD—the LORD is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But he will not leave the guilty unpunished.”

—Exodus 34:6-7



GOD'S GOOD LAW

CORE PASSAGE: EXODUS 20:2-17

CONTEXT

God delivered the Israelites from cruel slavery in Egypt by His mighty hand. Then the Lord led them to Mount Sinai despite their doubts. God demonstrated His concern for human welfare, righteousness, and flourishing of His image-bearers by His giving of the Ten Commandments to His people. By giving the law on Mount Sinai, God showed His love by instructing His people how to live moral and devoted lives that bring blessing.

KEY CONCEPT

God's law reveals His good and holy expectations for His image-bearers.

As you examine Exodus 20:2-17:

- Consider that God deserves exclusive worship for His glory but also for our benefit and good.
- Identify ways the Ten Commandments direct believers toward living with holiness in their interactions with one another.



TIMELINE

God Leads Israel Out of Slavery
in Egypt (Exodus 13–15)

**SESSION STUDY: God Gives His People
the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)**

God Gives Instructions for the
Tabernacle and Priests (Exodus 25–31)

God Provides for His People's
Needs (Exodus 15–17)

God Gives Further Laws
(Exodus 20–24)

Daily Readings

- Day 1:** Exodus 19:1–20:21
- Day 2:** Exodus 20:22–24:18
- Day 3:** Exodus 25:1–27:21
- Day 4:** Exodus 28:1–29:46
- Day 5:** Exodus 30:1–31:18
- Day 6:** Psalm 101



Scan this QR code
to access this session's
Scripture passages.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

EXODUS 20:2-11

GOD IS SUPREME AND HOLY AND DESERVES EXCLUSIVE WORSHIP.

Highlight the “do nots” in this passage. Underline the “fors” and “because.”

2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery. **3** Do not have other gods besides me. **4** Do not make an idol for yourself, whether in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. **5** Do not bow in worship to them, and do not serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, bringing the consequences of the fathers' iniquity on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, **6** but showing faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commands. **7** Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses his name. **8** Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy: **9** You are to labor six days and do all your work, **10** but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. You must not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female servant, your livestock, or the resident alien who is within your city gates. **11** For the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything in them in six days; then he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and declared it holy.

THEOLOGY CONNECTION

WORSHIP: While many reduce worship to an event or the singing of worship songs, worship is first and foremost something of the heart and extends to all areas of life. The aim and focus of worship is God, giving Him the exact due of praise and adoration that He deserves. Worship should be carried out not only at a personal level within a Christian's life but also in joining with other Christians in the corporate act of worship and stewarding our gifts for the glory of God. Corporate worship serves to edify and strengthen other Christians, but it also serves as a witness to non-believers of the greatness of God.

Key Concept: God's law reveals His good and holy expectations for His image-bearers.



This passage emphasizes the significance of our worship as a response born of love for God, which highlights His unrivaled character. At the very beginning of His law, God declared, “I am the LORD your God,” the One who freed the Israelites from slavery. Verse 2 establishes God’s one-of-a-kind character and sovereign authority as the reason why His people were to obey the following commandments. More than an obligation, our worship and obedience should be a heartfelt response to the majesty and mercy of God. The commandments inspire us to demonstrate reverence and obedience toward God because of who He is and what He has accomplished for us.

The first commandment prohibits the worship of any other gods in any form. The second commandment also addresses how we worship the one true God, warning against creating idols of God or heavenly beings for worship. These commands govern our worship practices and should motivate us to refrain from placing anything above God or in place of God in our worship.

How does your understanding of God being the one true God impact the way you approach Him in prayer and devotion?

The first four commandments teach that God alone is worthy of our undivided worship. We must give God alone the glory that is due Him and recognize His absolute lordship over our lives. This is also good for us as it brings us into harmony with His will and divine intentions, which in turn brings blessings.

In obeying the Lord’s commandments, we also escape the anguish and condemnation that come with sinful pleasures. We avoid the snare and slavery of idolatry when we worship God alone. We guard our tongues as we show respect for God’s name, and we also will walk faithfully in the world as we take His name upon us. Furthermore, we will work responsibly and rest worshipfully as we obey God’s Sabbath commandment. Putting God first in our lives provides honor to Him and helps us find fulfillment and direction.

How have you placed other things or people above God in your worship, and what were the consequences of doing so?



PERSONAL PREPARATION

EXODUS 20:12-17

WE ARE TO LOVE OTHERS AS GOD LOVES US.

Underline each negative commandment.

Write a positive interpretation of each commandment in the space below.

12 Honor your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. **13** Do not murder. **14** Do not commit adultery. **15** Do not steal. **16** Do not give false testimony against your neighbor. **17** Do not covet your neighbor's house. Do not covet your neighbor's wife, his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Jesus came to fulfill the law in our place so that we might be saved by His perfect righteousness (Matthew 5:17).

Key Concept: God's law reveals His good and holy expectations for His image-bearers.

The focus of the Ten Commandments shifts from rules pertaining to respect for God to rules pertaining to human relationships in verses 12-17. Honoring parents, respecting life, being faithful in marriage, and speaking with integrity are all expectations from God's laws that emphasize the significance of fostering healthy relationships in the context of God's holiness.

God's people are known by the way they treat one another; therefore, love and care go beyond individual devotion to include caring for the community. Following these rules will lead to a society that reflects the divine image imprinted on humans, one in which compassion and love for God and others reign supreme. These commands aim to shape the moral compass of individuals and shape the social fabric of entire communities. We can see God's love and His desire for us to love like Him modeled in these verses. God's commandments teach us to love one another and all people who share His image.

How does your understanding of God's love for you shape the way you interact with others?

These commandments go beyond legalistic rules. Merely refraining from murder and adultery falls short of their intent. According to Jesus, God's commandments aim for our hearts, from which our actions overflow (see Matthew 5:21-30). Even the tenth commandment—"Do not covet"—specifically addresses an issue of the heart.

Every commandment, from respecting parents to avoiding coveting, addresses an expression of love from our hearts toward others. Goodness, righteousness, and compassion flourish in relationships and communities whose members uphold from the heart these prohibitions against murder, adultery, theft, and dishonesty.

Exodus 20:12-17 functions as a moral compass that directs believers toward living virtuously and with holiness in their interactions with one another. God's law promotes a community that mirrors His integrity and kindness, emphasizing that our loving treatment of one another is an expression of our love and respect for the God who first loved us (1 John 4:19).

In what ways are you demonstrating God's goodness and holiness in your interactions with others?

GROUP EXPERIENCE



FOR GOD'S GLORY AND OUR GOOD

Record what the Ten Commandments reveal about God and how we should be shaped by them.

WHAT DO THESE COMMANDMENTS REVEAL ABOUT GOD

HOW DO THESE COMMANDMENTS SHAPE US

EXODUS 20:2-11

EXODUS 20:12-17

How can we determine that our obedience to God's commandments is an overflow of a heart of faith, as Jesus taught, and not just surface-level compliance?



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HEAD

How should your worldview be impacted by the uniqueness and holiness of God?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

Read Psalm 101, examining King David's powerful vows to worship God and punish sins denounced in the Ten Commandments. Then pray through the psalm, thanking God for His grace and patience with you in Christ and committing yourself to His "way of integrity" (Psalm 101:2,6).



HEART

How does reflecting on these commandments encourage you to love God and others more?

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISES



HANDS

What actions will you take this week to reflect God's nature?

