

# Exodus 20:1-17

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

**<sup>1</sup> Then God spoke all these words, saying,**

**<sup>2</sup> I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>3</sup> You shall have no other gods before Me.**

**<sup>4</sup> You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.**

**<sup>7</sup> You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.**

**<sup>8</sup> Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.**

**<sup>12</sup> Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.**

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**<sup>13</sup> You shall not murder.**

**<sup>14</sup> You shall not commit adultery.**

**<sup>15</sup> You shall not steal.**

**<sup>16</sup> You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**

**<sup>17</sup> You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

*If "by works of the law no one will be justified" (Galatians 2:16), what can we still learn from the Ten Commandments?*

- *What observations do you make about the commandments – individually, all together, in groups?*
- *What might you learn about God's character from the commandments? What things are important to Him?*
- *What implications might the commandments have for us individually or as a church or as a society?*

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

- “The Ten Commandments are portrayed on two tablets. The five commandments on the second tablet all concern our treatment of fellow human beings.”<sup>1</sup> Is the fifth commandment (“honor your father and your mother...” part of instructions about relating to God or about relating to other people? How might that command pertain to our relationship with God?

<sup>1</sup> Dennis Prager, *The Ten Commandments: Still The Best Moral Code* (Washington DC: Regnery Publishing, 2015), 49.

## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

### Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you *interpret* the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you *observe* about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?

### Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What *application* does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**

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