

10

# Commandments

## *Confirmation Retreat*

Leader's packet

# INTRODUCTION

## 1. Read Exodus 19:16 – 19

### ■ What is happening here?

*God is coming to his people. He comes with power and with a display of his presence. He has called Moses to come up the mountain because he wants to talk with him.*

### ■ If you were there what would your reaction be?

*There are a lot of different reactions to what was seen here. Discuss what your feeling would be as you heard and saw what was happening.*

## 2. Up to this point God has been **protecting** and **providing** for His people.

### ■ **Nothing** has changed

*God always has and always will protect and provide for his people. Talk about how God provides and protects your family?*

### ■ Read Exodus 20:1-4

### ■ Given what you just read in Exodus 19 would you say that God is....

■ Laying down the **Law**

or

■ Laying out his **Love**

*Why do people typically go toward the idea that God is laying down his law? What do you think makes them say or think that?*

*God is laying out his love for his people. Just like a parent sets boundaries for their children, so God is setting His boundaries for his people. This is done out of love. He wants his children to be happy and to do what is right. He isn't trying to be a "fun-sucker"; he's giving them parameters on how to live a full life and a good life. Read John 10:10.*

What boundaries do your parents have for you that are given out of love so that you can have a full life?

*Discuss with your child what boundaries are set in your house so that your child is protected, provided for and so the family unit may live together in harmony. Talk about why each of these boundaries is necessary.*

3. Up to this point the Israelite people have been told when to get up, when to go to work, when to eat because they were slaves to the Egyptians. Now they are free from slavery.

What is the normal response to being released or freed from slavery/bondage? What would your response be?

*Once a person is freed from bondage/slavery they want to do everything they were not allowed to do. They have this freedom that they don't know how to handle. This can lead to trouble if not contained. There are a lot of people who were in prison and once released don't know what to do because they are not familiar to being free. So they do what they know what to do and end up right back in prison. God doesn't want his children to go back to slavery, he wants them to live in true freedom.*

■ Israelites are now **on their own** and God is seeking to take care of them

*Remember this generation of Israelites has never known freedom. They are now free to do as they please without the thought of punishment. This can be very dangerous for the Israelites. God is seeking to lead them in this freedom and show them how to live a free people.*

- He is not looking for **blind obedience**.
- Blind obedience just leads to **fear and punishment**.

*Why do you think this is true?*

*If we obey without the proper reason then we will fear what the punishment is if we don't obey. God does not want us to just follow him because that is what we are supposed to do. He wants us to follow him because we know him, trust him and understand his love for us.*

#### 4. Read Matthew 22:34-40

*As Jesus was being questioned, the religious leaders (Pharisees) were trying to get Jesus to say something against scripture. So they ask this question, "What is the greatest commandment?" Jesus sums up the 10 commandments with these two responses. First we put God as #1 in our lives. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and soul." In other words, love him with everything you are, in everything you do, at all times. The second he says, and says it just as important as having God #1, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Essentially what he is saying, "If you love God first, put him #1, then you cannot help yourself, but to love everyone, no matter who they are or what they have done. Do these two things and you fulfill the commandments."*

- Law has **2** tables or sections.
- 1st table deals with our relationship with **God**.  
*The first three (3) commandments are focused on our relationship with God... No other Gods, Keep his name holy and honor the Sabbath day.*
- 2nd table deals with our relationship with **others**.

*The last seven (7) commandments focus on how we relate to others in this world... from our parents and authorities to stealing, killing, lying and jealousy/coveting. There are proper ways we want to be treated and therefore we should treat others the same way.*

- Both are about a **relationship**.
  
- God is looking for a **relationship** with us.

*Not just any relationship, but a positive relationship where we honor him and bring him glory. He cares for us, watches over us, loves us and forgives us. He guides us, leads us and blesses us with his gifts.*
  
- The commandments are an expression of God's **love**.
  
- The thunder and lightning on the mountain says that not only does God **want** to take care of his people, but he **can** take care of them.

*God has the power to take care of everything we need and bring us through everything we encounter. He is all-powerful and therefore the one we trust. Read 1 Timothy 2:4. His desire is for everyone to have a relationship with him.*
  
- The Purpose of the Law...
  - **Curb**
  - **Mirror**
  - **Guide**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment:

# TRUST

## You shall have no other Gods

### 1. Read Exodus 32:1-5

- What are the people doing?

*They needed to have a physical picture of God. They demanded that Aaron make an image of a physical god who will lead them.*

- Why do you think they asked Aaron to make a god?

*Remember that they were in slavery for a very long time. 400 years! They knew only one thing...the Egyptians had many gods who would lead them, so they thought they needed to make a god for them to follow and have in front of them.*

- Egyptians had over 100 gods!

### 2. A god is something that you put your TRUST in.

- What you look to when you are in trouble.
- What will make things better, will help you.

- What are some things you can put your trust in?

*Brainstorm with your child things in this world that we put our trust in. Those things that help us in times of trouble or make things better or help us.  
Some examples are...*

- Money
- Friends
- Power

3. It comes down to just 2 gods.

The one true God and the false god.

■ False god = YOU

- How much money can you earn, how many friends can you have, how much power you have?

*How is this true? Do you agree with this? Why or why not? If we don't completely trust God with everything, then we can only turn to ourselves. The things in this world that we think will make things better, or help in times of trouble or help us can fail, disappear, break or actually cause us more pain. If we rely on ourselves, then we can make decisions that can actually harm us.*

- All other religions but Christianity is all about what you can do.
  - Follow all the rules, say all the right prayers, do more good than bad.
  - How do you know that you have done enough?

*What do you think is God's standard for "enough"? You may hear someone say, "I've been good. Actually I've done more good than bad in my life. Therefore, I think I'll get to go to heaven." So how much more good than bad must you do? At least one more good thing than bad throughout your life? If this is true, then we'll live our life hoping that we've done enough to get to heaven. Read Matthew 5:48. What is God's standard for enough? We must be perfect. None of us are perfect and therefore cannot do "enough" in order to earn*

*our way to heaven. That is why we need to rely on Jesus as our way to heaven.*

■ One **TRUE GOD**

- It's not about what you can do, but what God **has done** for you.
- Read Romans 3:22-24
  - All fall short of the **glory** of God
  - Justified freely by his **grace**.

*Since we know that God's standard is perfection, in this passage we find out what God has done for us in order to meet this standard. The standard now is God's grace. It's all about His unconditional love for us. All that is required from us... is faith.*

- All that is required is **faith**
- What is faith?
  - It's a **BLT**

*Faith is a BLT. **B**elieve that Jesus Christ is your lord and savior. That he died upon the cross for the payment of your sins and rose from the grave as the victory for you! **L**ove God with all you are. Make him the #1 priority in your life. **T**rust him to lead you and to be there for and with you. In everything you do make him a part of it.*

- **Believe**\_\_\_\_\_
- **Love**\_\_\_\_\_
- **Trust**\_\_\_\_\_

- How does this make you feel? How can having this faith and God's grace in your life allow you to live in freedom?

*Share together your thoughts on knowing that God's grace is sufficient for us and how we can rely and trust in that.*

4. No matter how hard we try we cannot:

- Do **enough** to make up for our sin.

*Remember that perfection is what's required. Our sin creates a huge wall between us and God. A wall we cannot knock down, climb over, go around or tunnel under. It needs to be knocked down by a perfect sacrifice. Jesus is our perfect sacrifice.*

- Earn our own **salvation**.

*If we are able to keep the commandments perfectly, we would not need Jesus to be our sacrifice and victory. Why? Because we'd be perfect. Salvation is a gift from God because he loves us.*

5. In the first commandment God is **protecting** us from putting our **trust** in something or someone that **cannot** deliver.

1st Commandment = **TRUST**

- Get this one right and you get **all** of them right.

- If we **trust** God above all things then all the rest fall in line.

*The reality is that we get ourselves in trouble when we put ourselves above God. We start thinking that it's all about me, I have to take care of #1, if I don't take watch out for myself, no-one will. That is when we get ourselves out of focus and make decisions that go against God. Brainstorm with your child what we can do in order to keep God #1 in our lives.*

6. Catechism page 56

■ Do...

- **Fear**
- **Love**
- **Trust**
- **God above** all things

■ Don't...

- **Idolatry**

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment:

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

**You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God**

### 1. What's in a name?

- Does your name have any significance? Why did your parents give you that name? Do you know what it means?

*Talk about why you gave your child their name. What's the significance of that name? Share why your parents gave you your name (if you know).*

- In Biblical times

- Name = **Who you are**

- Name = **Reputation**

*Think of choosing one store/brand over another because of their name. Talk with your child about their favorite place to shop. Why that place? What's the reputation of the store/brand? What does it say about you or what you believe?*

### 3. God's name

- To speak God's name is to **know** who God is.

*How does it feel when someone knows your name? What about when someone you know forgets your name, does that make you mad or upset?*

- God's names in the bible are like little **portraits** or **promises**.

- Tells **about** God or what God **will do** for us.

4. Discover the names of God in these passages

*Go through each passage and identify the name used for God and what portrait or promise is it conveying.*

- Genesis 17:1 **God Almighty – he is all powerful**
- Genesis 22:14 **Lord will provide**
- Isaiah 9:6 **Wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting father, prince of peace**
- Matthew 1:21 **Jesus = savior**
- Mark 8:29 **Christ = messiah – the promised one**
- John 1:29 **Lamb of God – sacrifice of God for our sins**

■ What are we saying about God when...

*In our society it's easy to take God's name in vain because it is acceptable to the general public. As Christians we fall into this trap and don't think twice about it.*

■ We text OMG?

■ We say, "God, yes I love...." or "Oh God, I would never..."?

*Is it alright to do this if we substitute the name of God for something else? I.e. instead of "Oh my God" we say "oh my gosh?" What do you think? Discuss this together. Do we still mean God even though we substitute a word for his name? What about cursing? Is it alright to use the word "Frick" instead of the other "f" word?*

5. When you honor His **name**, you **honor** God.

■ He has **significance** in your life.

*Talk about what that word "significance" means. How is honoring God displaying how significant he is in your life? Significance means to be of importance. If something is important to you, do you not praise it and lift it up to high esteem?*

6. Catechism page 63

■ Do...

- **Call** on it in **trouble**
- **Pray** regularly
- **Praise** him to others
- Give him **thanks**

■ Don't...

- **Curse**
- **Swear**
- **Lie** by it
- **Deceive** by it
- Use **witchcraft**

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment: **REMEMBER**

## **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy**

### 1. Read Matthew 11:28-30

#### ■ Jesus promises **rest**

*How important is rest to you? What does rest do for you? What are some things in your life that you require rest from? Think about lifting weights. You have to rest between sets or you will get too tired to allow your muscles to do the proper work. Sometimes you need to take a break from doing homework to give your mind time to reset. Maybe you need rest from a long day at work or school.*

#### ■ Rest comes from knowing that **Jesus** will take care of all your needs.

*How can knowing Jesus give you rest for your soul? What are some things in the life that affect your soul (who you are) that you need rest from?*

#### ■ Sabbath = **Rest**

#### ■ Worship is a time of **rest**.

*How important is worship to your family? What are the benefits you receive when you worship? Talk together about why worship is important to your family and what you receive by being there. What do you do to engage with what is happening in worship? How do you prepare yourself for worship? Do you like traditional or contemporary worship or a blend of the two? Why?*

- Rest comes when we remember all that God has done for us.
- The Bible tells us what God has done for us.

*Make a list of all the things God has done for you and your family.*

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## 2. Read James 1:22-24

*As you read through James 1, identify what he is saying in regards to worship. How are we to accept the Word of God into our lives? What are we to do with the Word as we hear it in worship or when we read it?*

- Listen
- Learn
- Believe
- Obey

*What do you like the most about worship? Why is this part of the service important to you? What part do you “check out” at? Why do you not pay that much attention? What do you think God’s word says to us about the times we check out?*

## 3. Worship

- Listen
- Learn
- Praise
- Pray

*We worship God because of what he has done for us and for what he still does for us. What can you do differently this next week at worship to remember what worship is about and engage in the whole service? It’s been said that worship can be defined as “Worthship”, in other words, we are showing*

*God what he is worth to us. What do you think about this definition?*

#### 4. Worship can be on any day

- Old Testament = **Saturday – 7<sup>th</sup> day of the week**
- New Testament = **Sunday – first day of the week**

*The actual Sabbath day was never changed. God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, therefore the Sabbath is on Saturday. Why do you think the Christian church decided to begin worshipping on Sunday instead of Saturday (although we currently have a Saturday night service here at Gloria Dei)? What was the purpose of the church emphasizing this change?*

- It is a **Mini Easter service.**

*Since Jesus was resurrected on a Sunday, each weekend worship service is like have a “mini Easter service”. It’s our celebration of his victory for us.*

- Can our “Sabbath” be on any day of the week?

##### 1. YES!

*It’s about resting in God’s word, singing his praises, hearing the word explained, prayer and coming together with other Christians. No matter what day you worship on.*

#### 5. Catechism page 74

- Do...

- **Hear**
- **Learn**
- **Believe**
- **Obey**
  - **Everyday!**

■ Don't...

- Refuse to hear
- Let the world crowd it out
- Refuse to believe
- Refuse to obey

# 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment: **FOUNDATION**

**Honor your father and mother; that it may go well with you and that you may have long life on the earth**

1. The fourth commandment is the **Foundation** for the **2<sup>nd</sup>** table of the law.

- It is the only commandment with a **promise**

What's the promise?

- That it may go **well** with you and that you may **enjoy** long **life** on **earth**.

*In biblical times it was customary that if the child embarrassed the family that the child would be stoned to death. Kind of a harsh sentence, but if that was the case today, many of our kids would not live long. This commandment gives this promise to those who honor their parents. In today's world we can understand this to read, "Honor your father and mother and you will receive the blessings that come through the family."*

2. God has set aside family as the basic **building block** of society.

- If there is **honor** and **respect** in the family, there will be **honor** and **respect** in society.

*Why do you think this is true? Where have you seen this evident in our society? Where have you seen the opposite to be true?*

*Dishonor leads to chaos and problems. But does this mean we must agree with everyone in authority? Discuss this with your child.*

*We don't have to agree with everyone, but we must honor and respect them with our disagreements. Is this easy to do? Discuss this with your child.*

- As the Israelites were heading into a new land, God was **protecting** and **providing** for their relationships.

### 3. What does it mean to honor?

*Brainstorm with your child what they think honor means.*

- Honor: high **respect**, as for **worth**, **merit**, or **rank**
  - Who should we honor?
    - Ephesians 6:1-2 **Parents**
    - Hebrews 13:7,17 **Church leaders and those who teach you**
    - 1 Peter 2:13-14 **Government officials, teachers/administrators, bosses, etc...**
- God wants us to honor those in **authority**, especially those in our **homes**, our **churches**, and our **government**.

### 4. What should a relationship look like between parents and children?

- Same relationship that we are to have with our **father** in **heaven**
  - It begins with **love**
  - God **loves** us. God **initiates** the relationship. God **listens** to us. We **learn** from God.

*As parents we initiate love toward our children. We held them and said "I love you. I'll take care of you. I'll*

*always be here for you.” That’s what God has done for us. As parents we don’t just demand that our children respect/honor us, but we give them the reason to. Our attitudes and actions show that we are deserving of their honor/respect. This may be a struggle for some of you, but talk about some of the promises you made to your child when they were born (or adopted). Have your child give you a rating on how you’ve done on those promises and the reason why they gave you that rating. This could open some good dialogue on how they see you as a parent.*

## 5. Parents should also learn from God on this commandment

- 1 John 4:19- We **love** because he first **loved** us.

- Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

*Discuss the following questions with your child based on each verse in this passage.*

- 1. Why is it important to believe in just one God?*
- 2. How do you love God with all your whole heart, soul and strength? Give examples.*
- 3. What do you think it means to have these commandments “upon your heart”? Why is the heart important?*
- 4. What does the word “impress” mean here? When was a time you had a good conversation about God in your home? What made it memorable?*
- 5. What symbols of the faith are important to you and where do you have them displayed?*
- 6. Identify all the different displays of faith you have in your house.*

- Primary duties of a parent are to **love** God, **love** their kids and **teach** them about God.
- God demonstrates his love for us by:
  - Romans 5:8
  - **Dying for us**

- God loves us when we are **unlovable**

*Do your children deserve your love even when they do wrong? Probably not, but you give it to them anyway. Why? Because of your deep love for them. And God does the same for us.*

## 6. Proverbs 13:24

- Parent's duty to show love even in **discipline**.

*Discuss how discipline is love. What is the purpose of discipline? If there were no discipline in the family, what could be the outcome?*

- Parents need to:

- **Love**

- **Listen**

- **Teach** (Deut. 6:6-7 **IMPRESS**)

## 7. When is it right not to obey those in authority?

*Brainstorm ideas of when it's alright to not obey authority. Sometimes we think we are to obey all authority no matter what. In reality, there are people in authority who will lead you away from God and his word.*

- Acts 5:29

- Matthew 10:37

- They go **against** God's **word**

*Brainstorm specific demands someone might ask of you that would or wouldn't go against God's word. i.e. if a parent ask you to clean your bedroom then you \_\_\_\_\_? Is that a request that is against God's word or not? This can be a fun exercise for you to talk about.*

8. Catechism page 83

■ Do...

- **Honor** by **servinq** and **obeyinq** in **love** and **respect** always

■ Don't...

- **Disobey**
- **Dishonor**
- Cause **anger**

# 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment:

## VALUE

### You shall not murder

#### 1. Have you ever taken the life of another person?

*What do you think? Of course this is a trick question. Most of the time we think about murder/killing someone as to what this commandment is talking about. But we will find out that it's more than that.*

#### ■ Read Matthew 5:22

- Anyone who is **angry** with his brother will be subject to **judgment**.

*Have you ever been angry at someone for a good reason? What was that reason? What about for the wrong reason? Do you think it's a sin to be angry for the right reason? Talk about this with your child.*

*Was Jesus ever angry? Yes, when he was in the temple and began to tip over the money changers tables. Now, was Jesus perfect? He never sinned, right? Then his anger was not wrong. There is a difference between righteous (anger because something is going against God's will) and anger focused on selfishness. What would be something that is happening in this world that can be cause us to have righteous anger against? Talk about this with your child (i.e. abortion, pornography, slavery, sex trafficking, etc...).*

#### ■ Jesus wants to get at our attitude towards **life**.

- Do you **value** life?
- Or do you **de-value** life?

*This is the primary teaching in this commandment. If we devalue our life or the life of another then we go against this commandment and do things that will break it. If we value life then we make the opposite choices and protect our life and the life of others.*

■ Psalm 139:13

■ God is the **creator** of **all** things

■ Your life is **special** because God knew you before you were even **made**.

*Discuss with your child how this knowledge makes a difference in their life. Why is this something to remember? How does it help you value your life and the life of others? Since we are created by God, we have a special value. Every single person in this world was created by God and God does not make junk! He created each of us out of love and wants us to value this life he has given us.*

■ What is God's view on life?

■ God values **life**

■ God considers all life **sacred**, from the **strong** and **healthy**, to the **unborn**, to the **unwanted**.

■ All life is a **gift**

*When you receive a gift, what do you do with it? Have your child think of the most precious gift they could receive.*

*Now discuss these questions: How do you treat it? How do you take care of it? Why would you do this?*

*How is this example equivalent to each person's life? Each life is a gift, a precious gift, which we are told to care for, to treat it as very valuable.*

2. When does life begin?

■ Psalm 139:13-16

■ At the time of **conception**

■ What is our response to abortion?

■ It is **against** God's will

3. If we **value** life, then we will:

- **Protect** it
- **Defend** it
- **Build** others up and not **tear** them down

■ What about...

*Discuss with your child what their and your views are in regards to following issues and what your views are to them.*

- Capital Punishment
- War
- Abortion
- Physician Assisted Suicide

4. Read

- Deut 32:39
- Psalm 31:15
- Romans 13:4

- Only **God** or his **appointed representatives** in government have the **right** to end a person's life.
- Value **your life** and the life of **your neighbor!**

5. Is this murder? Why or why not?

■ **Hatred**

*When we say we hate someone, we are saying to them, they are worth nothing to us. That is murder as defined by God.*

■ **Gossip**

*When we talk behind the back of another person, we are saying that their feelings don't matter and therefore we are diminishing their value of life.*

■ **Telling a lie about someone**

*When we lie about another person we ruin their reputation (we'll talk more about that in another commandment) and therefore devaluing their life.*

■ **Put downs/name calling**

*As we do this we are telling that person that they have no value to us and they are worthless. God would disagree with that as he says "everyone has value and is important to us."*

■ **Bullying – cyber or physical**

*When we bully people or are bullied by someone we are devalued by them. We are told, "You are so much less than me and you don't matter." We know that this is not true and therefore we murder them by bullying them.*

■ **Texting a negative about a person to another person**

*This can be very dangerous as we know when something is text to someone else, what happens? That's right it goes viral and that can't be taken back. This can ruin someone's reputation and devalue their life.*

■ **Posting something on Facebook or other social media sites that puts another person down**

*It is so easy to say something over the internet that we wouldn't say to the face of another person. This is not how God intends for us to treat each other, whether it's true or not. You wouldn't want someone doing this to you...then don't do this to another person.*

1 John 3:15

*As you can see, there are many ways to "murder" another person besides just taking their life. We need to watch what we say and do, that can hurt another person.*

6. Catechism page 89

■ Do...

- Be **Patient**
- Be **Kind**
- Be **Forgiving**
- Be **Helpful**
- Be a **Friend**

■ Don't do...

■ **Harm my own body**

*Cutting is so prevalent in today's world. It's the act of hurting one's self physically in order to escape the emotional pain they are feeling. God does not want you to hurt nor to hurt yourself. Talk with your child about cutting and if they know of anyone who has cut themselves. How can we help those who are doing this?*

- **Suicide**
- **Harm another's body**
- **Murder**
- **Hateful thoughts and words**

# Scenarios

Discuss together scenarios that Jr high students face in regards to each of the commandments.

(i.e. No other Gods... I just love Justin Beiber... I worship him... He's the greatest singer, person, and artist! And he's so cute!)

Commandment 1 "You shall have no other gods":

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Commandment 2 "Do not misuse the Lord's name":

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Commandment 3 "Remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy":

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Commandment 4 "Honor your father and mother":

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Commandment 5 "Do not murder":

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# 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment:

## GUARD

*You shall not commit adultery*

1. Read the following

- Genesis 2:19-23
- Proverbs 18:22
- Hebrews 13:4

*What truths did you read in these passages?*

God is **guarding** the gift of marriage

*Why do you think God would want to protect the marriage relationship between a man and woman?*

*Who do you know that has a strong marriage relationship?*

*What makes that relationship strong? Discuss these questions with your child and come up with a list of around 10 things that make for a good, strong marriage relationship.*

2. What is marriage?

- Genesis 2:24

- A **man** will leave his **father** and **mother** and be **united** to his **wife**.

*According to scripture we find that marriage is a union between a man and woman. In today's society there is a movement for same sex marriages. According to God's word, which we believe is true and infallible; we see that this movement would contradict God's word.*

■ Romans 7:2

■ **Lifelong** commitment

*God's intention for marriage is to be for life. Nobody goes into a marriage relationship not wanting this.*

3. Adultery = **contamination** or **defiled**.

■ Adultery **fractures** and **dilutes** relationships

■ When a **marriage** relationship is **defiled** then other relationships will be **hurt** ... especially with **children**

*Have you seen this to be true in any families you know who have gone through a divorce?*

4. What contaminates marriage relationships?

*Brainstorm with your child different things/activities/thoughts that go against this commandment. These things contaminate the marriage relationship. It's just like seeing contaminated water. You wouldn't drink from it until it has been purified. This is the same with our lives when we break this commandment.*

■ **Unfaithfulness** - physical and non-physical

*Unfaithfulness is seen in both the act of having sex outside of marriage and also having thoughts of another man/woman in a sexual manner.*

■ **Abandonment**

*This is where a person doesn't commit to the marriage relationship and emotionally "leave" the marriage. They no longer want to be married and don't display affection toward the other person.*

■ **Lies**

*Lies lead to mistrust and trust is one of the foundations to a solid marriage relationship.*

■ **Betrayal**

*Here is where one of the marriage partners disappoints the hopes or expectations of the other and is disloyal to them.*

- Adultery usually leads to **divorce**
- **Contamination** leads to **broken** relationships

*Not only is this true in a marriage relationship, it is true in everyday relationships. Discuss how this is true in jr. high relationships.*

## 5. What does God think about divorce?

- Mark 10:4-9

- What **God** has **joined** together, let man not **separate**.

*Scripture considers divorce a sin, as it goes against God's will for us. We do know there is forgiveness for all sin and as we will see below, because of our sinful world, marriages are contaminated/defiled and God does not hold the "victim" responsible for the acts of those who go against the marriage union.*

- Divorce is not God's **intention** for man and woman.

*God's intention is for marriage to thrive and be fruitful.*

- In a **fallen** world relationships are **broken** and divorce is an **unfortunate** result.

*Since we live in a sinful/fallen world our relationships are attacked by the devil and the evil of this world. When we allow those things to enter our relationships, we set ourselves up for the unfortunate results of sin.*

- Divorce is **not** permitted except for **unfaithfulness** or **desertion**; which is **contamination**.

*God desires for you to be in a relationship that is good and pleases him. If your partner is unfaithful, desert you, is abusive or does not love you, then he has permitted divorce to be allowed. Again, it's not his desire, but it is allowed because the marriage relationship is not living as he designed it to be.*

## 6. Benefits of Marriage

- Genesis 2:18

- Loving companionship

- How is this true in your life? What's the benefit for you to have someone who loves you around you? Discuss with your child how the dating process is a taste of the companionship you have as a married couple. If you're a single parent, then focus on how dating relationships are a taste of what God intends in a marriage relationship.*

- Song of Solomon 4:1-7

- Sexual happiness

- Sex is not wrong, it is a gift of God for marriage partners to experience. He wants our marriage relationships to enjoy sexual relationships. Because of our sinfulness we have taken what God has established and moved it outside of the marriage relationship. Discuss with your child some of the results of moving the sexual experience outside of the marriage relationship (i.e. abortion, STD's, unwanted pregnancies, heartaches, emotional stress, etc...).*

- Genesis 1:27-28

- Children

- Come up with 3-5 examples of how your child is a benefit to you (besides being a tax write off 😊). Share with them the joy they bring to your life.*

## 7. What's this have to do with jr. high students ... we're not married?

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

- Ephesians 5:5

- Guards you from contamination before you get married. *Discuss with your child how what we experience before our marriage relationship we carry with us. If we experience a lot of "contamination" then we bring that with us to our marriage relationship.*

*Ask: How strong is the pressure for teenagers to experience sex before marriage? What are the TV shows, movies and music telling teenagers about sex?*

*This should open a great dialogue with your child on how media and friends influence our thoughts and actions.*

■ Matthew 5:27-28

■ Ephesians 5:3-4

■ Guards your **thoughts**

*It's not only our actions that get us in trouble and break this commandment...it's our thoughts that we have to protect as well.*

## 8. Catechism page 97

■ Do ...

■ Being **pure** in **thought**, **word** and **acts**

■ **Honor** and **love** your marriage partner when you have one

■ **Flee** temptation

■ How can a teenager “flee” temptation?

*What does it mean to “flee”? This can mean running away, turning toward something else, focusing on something other than the temptation.*

*Brainstorm ways a teenager can “flee” temptation.*

*What can they do to stay pure?*

■ Genesis 39:6-12

■ What did Joseph do in his time of temptation?

*He was being tempted by Potiphar's wife to have sex with her. Not only once, but day after day she was pressuring him. What did he do? He FLED from the temptation. Do you think it was easy for him to flee? Is it easy for us to flee? Of course it's not easy, but it's necessary for us to stay pure.*

■ What did he say?

*In verse 9 we read what his verbal response was.*

■ “How can I do such a **wicked** thing and **sin** against **God**.”

*What was his focus? Where was his heart?  
It was focused on God and honoring him. Because  
of that he was able to withstand the temptation and  
flee.*

■ Don't ...

- Destroy **companionship**
- Be **unfaithful**
- **Divorce**
- Have **premarital sex**
- Have **impure** words and thoughts
- Practice **homosexuality**

*According to scripture we find that homosexuality is a sin. This goes against what our society is accepting as normal concerning homosexuality. When we take homosexuality out of a spiritual discussion we forget what God is saying about it. But, we must be careful that we don't escalate this sin higher than any other sin. This sin is not any worse a sin than cursing, speeding, having sex before marriage, looking at pornography, gossiping, lying, etc...*

*How can we love the person and not accept the sin?  
This is difficult. Discuss this with your child.*

# 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment:

## **PRIORITIES**

### **You shall not steal**

1. When you think of **stealing** what do you think of?

*Brainstorm with your child different ways people steal things.  
Examples are listed below.*

- **Robbery** - banks, stores, etc.
- Holding something or someone for **ransom**

2. What about...

a. **Pilfering** - *Stealing in small quantities.*

- Taking candy from a store
- Paper or supplies from school or a friend
- Any others?

b. Stealing of **ideas**

- Cheating on a test
- Having a parent/friend do your project
- Plagiarism- stealing someone's ideas or words

*Discuss with your child why people justify (rationalize these things to be okay to do) doing these things and not worrying about whether they are right or wrong. i.e. "I will never use this stuff I'm learning in class again." "They won't miss just one of these things." Etc...*  
*What could happen if we continue to just steal the "small stuff"? This could lead us to start stealing bigger things and justify those actions.*

3. **Priorities** need to be in place

- Things of **God** vs. things of this **world**

*The world has a lot of great things for us. When we start desiring them and not focusing on God we open up the temptation for stealing and getting those things dishonestly. God wants to protect our heart and our desires.*

■ Mark 8:36

- What **good** is it for a man to **gain** the whole world, yet **forfeit** his **soul**?

*What is the warning in this verse? What do you think he meant with the saying “gain the whole world”?  
How can this priority lead us to “forfeit our soul”?  
If our focus is on gaining the blessings of this world, and remember they are blessings and so God wants us to enjoy the things of this world, then we will seek more of these blessings and forget to focus on God and his mercy. He provides these blessings, not us. Here we can forfeit our soul by putting our trust in the things of the world and not on God. This leads to the next statement.*

- We will always want **more**

5. God should be your **#1 priority**

*Again we go back to the first commandment. If our priority is God then we can resist the temptation to want more and the desire that it creates.*

- Read Matthew 6:33

- **Seek** first his **Kingdom** and his **righteousness** and all these **things** will be **added** to you.

*What is God’s promise in this verse?*

*We don’t receive everything we want, but we do receive the blessings that he has for us. Some of those blessings are the material things of this world (house, car, clothing, video games, etc...).*

6. Right **priorities** lead to a personal **self-worth**

*Why do you think this is true? Self-worth is based on who we are, what we do and how we do it. If our priorities are right*

*then we will have a positive self-worth because we receive the things we deserve and worked for.*

- There is no **pride** in receiving something you **do not** deserve

- Put in the **effort** and you receive the **positive** benefits

*Take the time now and share a time when you receive encouragement and praise for doing the work for something. How did that make you feel?*

7. God is **protecting** our **self-worth** because we are **valuable** to him.

8. Catechism page 102

- How does God want us to use our gifts?

- **Provide** for our families

- Lend **help** to those in **need**

- Pay **taxes** we owe

- **Give** back to the work of the **Church**

*Our offerings to God are a response to the love that God has for us. He has blessed us with the ability to support ourselves and our families that we give back to him out of love for who he is.*

Do...

- Be **content**

- Do **faithful** work

- **Help** others

Don't ...

- **Waste**

- **Robbery**

- **Theft**

- **Fraud**

- **Greedy thoughts**

# 8<sup>th</sup> Commandment:

## REPUTATION

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor

### 1. God protects our reputation

*How important is your reputation? What reputation do you have with your friend? With your teachers? With your coaches? With your family? Are those reputations accurate of who you are?*

■ No other civilization had a rule or law prohibiting the damaging of a person's character

■ If we are to love our neighbor then we should be mindful of what we say about them

*Why do you think it's so easy to say bad things about people? Brainstorm reasons why people put others down or say negative things about them.*

■ Words can damage a person's character, name and life

*Brainstorm some examples of how this is true. Where have you seen this happen in your circles? How can gossip affect the character, name or life of another person?*

### 2. "Sticks and stones will break my bones but words will never hurt me."

■ True or False? FALSE

*Words hurt a lot. They enter our ears and go straight to our heart and a lot of times it is very painful. Once they enter our hearts then our minds follow and begin to think things God would not want us to think.*

3. The truth is our world and culture is filled with:

■ **Half-truths**

*What would be an example of a half-truth?*

■ **Accusations**

*Why are accusations hurtful? Have you ever been accused of something you didn't do? How did that affect you?*

■ **Misquotes**

*Give an example of someone being misquoted. What can be the outcome of a misquote?*

■ This is **NOT** what God wants for your life?

4. It's all about the **name**

■ Proverbs 16:27-28

■ God wants your name to have a **good reputation**

*What type of reputation does a person, who does those things listed in Proverbs, have?*

■ Proverbs 22:1

■ We want people to **respect** and **trust** us

*Why do you think this is true? It is said that things can be taken away from us but our reputation is something only we can take away from ourselves. Do you agree or disagree with this? Why?*

5. God doesn't want us to:

■ **Talk** behind someone's back whether **true** or **untrue**

*A lot of times we justify talking about someone because what we are saying is true. But we must ask ourselves this question... "Is what I'm saying helping or hurting the reputation of the person I'm talking about?" If we ask this question how do you think this will affect gossip?*

■ Do nothing with **evil intentions**

*Again this is getting at our motivation and our own reputation.*

6. Catechism page 109.  
God wants us to...

- **Defend** each other
- Speak **well** of others
- Take the **words** of others in the kindest possible way  
*This can be very hard to do. Because what they say may hurt us. We must learn to listen and not react right away. We need to process the words and see what is true and what is a lie. Then we can make the proper decision about what to do about what they said. Why is this difficult to do?*
  
- **Lead** others to **repentance**
  - Matthew 18:15  
*According to God's word what is the first step for us to take when someone has wronged us? What is the first step we usually take? Usually we go to others and talk about it, gain allies and attack them back. But God tells us to do something different. We need to talk it out with the other person first.*

God wants us not to...

- **Lie**
- **Betray**
- Give **anyone** a bad **name**

# 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Commandment:

## CONTENTMENT

### Do Not Covet Your Neighbor's House

### Do Not Covet Your Neighbor's wife, workers, animals, or anything that belongs to your neighbor

1. To covet is to have a **sinful**, all **consuming desire** for something which is not yours.

*Covet is a higher level of jealousy. Covet goes to the point of saying, "I'm not happy unless I have this or that." It consumes you and causes you to do things that are not beneficial for you to do in order to get it.*

2. Make list of needs....

*Brainstorm ideas of what needs are. We need air, water, food, clothing, shelter, etc...*

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3. Make a list of wants

*Brainstorm ideas of what wants are. i.e. a certain brand of clothing, video games, new shoes (when we have perfectly good ones in our closet we don't wear), etc...*

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4. Coveting is when we turn a **want** into a **need**.

■ James 4:1-3

*According to these verses, what happens when we covet and when we don't get what we want? What is important when it comes to our requests of God? Our motives are very important to what we desire. God knows our motives and the desires of our hearts and will answer according to those and his will.*

- We never want **much**, we just want **one** more thing.  
*Lay's potato chips have a saying, "Betcha can't eat just one." It's so true, we want more. What is your favorite food to eat? Now imagine it is in front of you and all you can do is take one little bite. Can you stop there without wanting more? Why? Why is one little bite not enough? The reality is that we will want more.*
  
- If we could just have.....  
*Share with each other things that you really would like right now? Some examples are listed below.*
  - **A new cell phone**
  - **Boyfriend/girlfriend**
  - **A video game**
  - **An iPad2**
  
- Coveting is never **satisfied**, because it always wants **one** more thing.

5. 80% of what we have we **never** use.

- You probably only regularly wear only **20 %** of the clothes you have.

*Is this true for you? Do you really wear all your clothing? Or do you wear your favorites all the time? What about other things in the house. Do you use everything you have or are there things you have that you never use? Why do we keep these things? Of course we use the rationalization that "we just might need it." So what do we normally do? We go out and get more stuff.*

6. Read Philippians 4:11-13, Hebrews 13:5

- Contentment is greater than being **happy**.

*Discuss with your child the difference between contentment and happiness. Where does happiness come from? Where does contentment come from?*

- Happiness is influenced by all kinds of things **outside** of you.

*Share a time when you were happy one moment and then all of a sudden something happened and you were unhappy. Your happiness was influenced by what happened outside you. God wants you to be happy, but he desires for you to be content.*

- Contentment is determined only by **YOU!**

*Contentment comes from inside you. It's where your heart and mind meet to say, "I don't need more than what I have. I have enough. I'm content."*

7. Secret to contentment is learning the **difference** between a **want** and a **need**.

- Nothing **wrong** with wanting things as long as you do not cross over into **coveting**.

*Brainstorm ideas of how you can be content in what you have and find that balance between wanting something and coveting. The stuff of this world are blessings that God wants us to experience but not at the sacrifice of our hearts. If we don't get what we want we can still be content because we do have a lot and more importantly we have the love of family and the love of God.*

8. 1 Timothy 6:10

- **Love** of money is the **root**

*Notice that it's not money that's the root... it's the LOVE of money that's the root.*

What does a root do?

*Discuss with your child what the function of a root is.*

- It provides nutrients and water for something to grow.
- It allows the thing to stand strong

*Now in light of this and the passage from 1 Timothy 6:10, discuss with your child how the LOVE of money (or the love of anything else but God) can affect your heart and decisions?*

9. Catechism page 119

- **Do ...**
  - Have pure and holy desires
  - God pleasing words and deeds
- **Don't ...**
  - Desire something we should not want
  - Sinful words and deeds

# Scenarios

Discuss together scenarios that Jr high students face in regards to each of the commandments.

(i.e. No other Gods... I just love Justin Beiber... I worship him... He's the greatest singer, person, and artist! And he's so cute!)

Commandment 6 "Do not commit adultery":

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Commandment 7 "Do not steal":

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Commandment 8 "Do not bear false witness against your neighbor":

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Commandment 9/10 "Do not covet anything of your neighbor":

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# But there is HOPE...

*Discuss the following with your child in regards to the HOPE we still have when we are connected with God through faith. It is by faith we are saved!*

- We **can't** keep all the commandments **perfectly**

*Read Matthew 5:48. God's standard is perfection. None of us are perfect.*

- We **sin** daily

*Read Romans 3:23. Every one of us has sinned and we do it daily. There is not a day when we don't sin.*

- We **need** a **savior**. Someone who **can** keep them for **us**.

*Read Romans 3:24-25. There has been and will only be one person who has kept the commandments perfectly. His name is Jesus and he did it as a free gift for us so that our relationship can be reconciled back to God. It has been balanced again through Jesus' death and resurrection.*

- There is **HOPE**

## ■ HEALING

*God has the power to heal you from the pains that are caused by this world and our choices. These pains hurt us daily and we need to be healed from them. This is a spiritually healing that takes place and God through Jesus provides the remedy to our sins and pains.*

## ■ FORGIVENESS

*Forgiveness sets us free to live. Forgiveness means that those sins we have committed will not be held against us anymore. He takes our sins and says, "As far as the east is from the west, so your sins have been forgiven." You don't have to worry if your sins have been forgiven. Your sins have no power over you, unless you let them, because God has forgiven them in the name of Jesus.*

## ■ PURPOSE

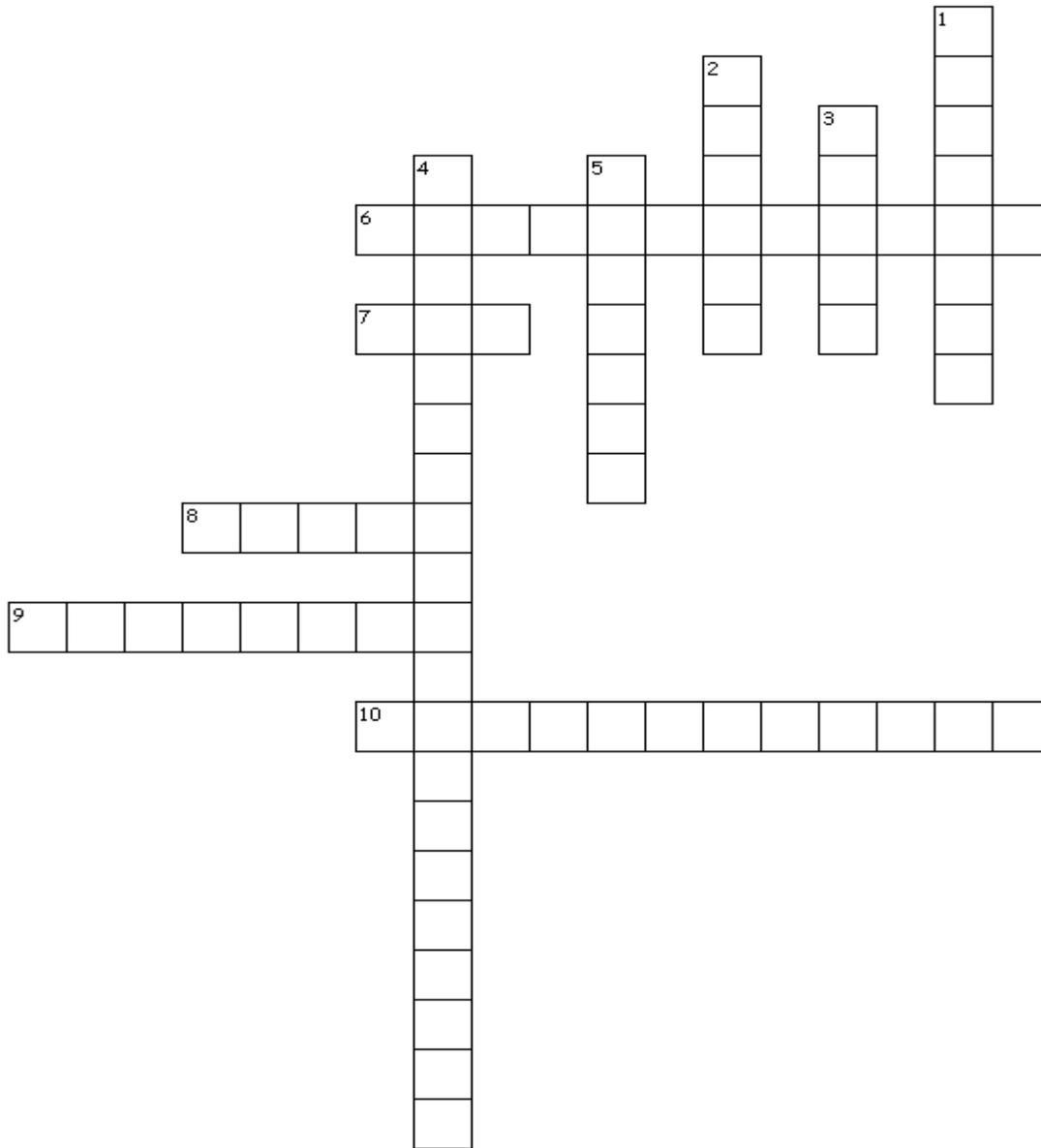
*God looks at each of us and says, "You are my child and you have purpose!" We know we have a reason to live, a reason to be here. He put us on this earth to love him and to love our neighbor. When we feel worthless, God says your worth so much to me. When we feel like we don't belong, God says you are mine. When we feel lost, God says I am here and I will lead you. You have purpose because God gives you purpose.*

## ■ ETERNAL LIFE

*God's promise to all of us that have faith in him is that we have a home waiting for us in heaven. We don't have to worry about whether I've done enough good, it's taken care of. We don't have to worry about whether or not I've done all the right things, it's taken care of. We don't have to worry about whether or not I've serve others enough, it's taken care of! Eternal life is a gift to us from God. Jesus took care of our deficiencies and made a road to God. It is through faith (believe, love and trust God that he forgives our sins through the death and resurrection of Jesus) you are saved!*

*He gives us HOPE everyday of our lives. Let our focus be on Jesus and the life he has for us! LET US LIVE IN HOPE!*

# 10 Commandments: Definitions



## Across

6. The laying out of God's love
7. There is only one!
8. A sinful, all-consuming desire for something that's not yours
9. Don't misuse this because it has great significance to you
10. To ruin someone's reputation by what we do or say

## Down

1. To go outside of God's sexual standards
2. To de-value the life of another person (physically, spiritually, emotionally)
3. To take something that's not your
4. To have respect for all authority
5. A time of rest and worship to God

# 10 Commandments: God Provides and Protects (answers)

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

**Write which commandment the word is associated with in the space provided:**

COMMANDMENTS

CONTENTMENT You Shall not covet # 9/10

FOUNDATION Honor your father and Mother #4

GUARD You shall not commit adultery #6

LOVE

PRIORITIES You shall not steal #7

PROTECTS

PROVIDES

REMEMBER Remember the Sabbath by keeping it holy #3

REPUTATION You shall not give false testimony #8

SIGNIFICANCE Do not take the Lord's name in vain #2

TEN

TRUST You shall have no other gods #1

Value You shall not murder #5