

10

Commandments

Leader Packet

Name _____

10 Commandments overview

1. Read Exodus 20:1-2

What is God reminding the Israelites about?

- A. He is their **GOD**
- B. He brought them out of **SLAVERY/EGYPT**

- If you were there, and were reminded about these 2 truths, what would your reaction be?
-
-
-

- Up to this point God has been **PROTECTING** and **PROVIDING** for His people.
(God always has and always will protect and provide for his people.)

2. Read Exodus 20:3-8

A. If God is the one protecting and providing for his people, then what should our response be toward him?

- a. Have **NO** other Gods
- b. Don't **BOW** down to them, don't **WORSHIP** them.

B. Would you say that God is....

Laying down the **LAW**

Or

Laying out his **LOVE**

C. 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?

- Do you think it's good to have boundaries/rules in relationships or should you just be able to do whatever you want? Why?

- Read John 10:10. What 5 boundaries/rules do your parents have for you that are given out of love so that you can have a full life?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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

A. What do you think is the normal response to being released or freed from slavery/bondage? What would your response possibly have been?

B. Israelites are now **ON THEIR OWN** and God is seeking to take care of them

C. He is not looking for **BLIND OBEDIENCE**.

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's 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.")

A. 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**
- Both are about a **RELATIONSHIP**.

(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.)

- 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**.

5. The Purpose of the Law

A. **CURB** = Keeps us on the **RIGHT** path.

B. **MIRROR** = Reflects to us **WHAT** we are doing and **WHERE** we need to make adjustments.

C. **GUIDE** = Shows us where the **CORRECT** path is for us walk and where **DANGERS** may be.

1st Commandment:

Key word: TRUST

You shall have NO other GODS before me!

What does this mean? Catechism page 53

1. Read Exodus 32:1-5

A. The people want Aaron to do what?

B. Why do you think they asked Aaron to make them gods?

C. The Israelites were enslaved in Egypt. The Egyptians had over 100 gods!

D. Do you think this is a natural response for the people of Israel?
Why or why not?

E. They forgot the 2 truths that God reminded them of when he gave them the 10 Commandments.

a. He IS their God!

b. He BROUGHT them out of slavery in Egypt!

2. A god is something that you put your TRUST in.
Something you look to when you are in TROUBLE.

- Something that will make things “**BETTER**”, will “**HELP**” you.
 - a) What are some things you can put your trust in?
(Brainstorm about 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.)

3. It comes down to just 2 gods.

- The **ONE TRUE** God and the **FALSE** god.

a) False god = **YOU**

- How much money can you earn or do you have?
- How many friends or followers do you have?
- How much power do you have?

- Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

(If we don't completely trust God with everything, then we only have one other choice, we turn to ourselves. Then we begin to look toward the things in this world that we think will make things better, or help in times of trouble. The problem is that those things that we think will 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 are supposed to do.
 - Follow all the rules, say all the right prayers, do more good than bad. If these religions are true then we have to ask one question...
 - How do you know that you have done **ENOUGH?**
- b). One **TRUE** God
- It's not about what you can do, but what God **HAS DONE** for you.
- Read Romans 3:22-24
 "For all have **SINNED** and fall short of the **GLORY** of God, and are justified by his **GRACE** as a **GIFT**. "

(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.)

- b) All that is required is **FAITH**
 - What is faith?
 - It's a **B.L.T.**
 - **BELIEVE**
 - **LOVE**
 - **TRUST**

(Faith is a BLT. Believe 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! Love God with all you are. Make him the #1 priority in your life. Trust him to lead you, to be there for you, and with you. In everything you do make him a part of it.)

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

4. No matter how hard we try we cannot:

- Do **ENOUGH** to make up for our sinfulness.
- Earn our own **SALVATION**.

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 watch out for myself, no-one will. That is when we get ourselves out of focus and make decisions that go against God.)

- Brainstorm some practical things we can do in order to keep God #1 in our lives.

Do...

• FEAR

• LOVE

• TRUST

- GOD ABOVE all things

Don't..

• IDOLATRY

Scenerio: Think of a scenario that jr high student may face where they will struggle to keep this commandment.

Commandment 1 "You shall have no other gods":

2nd Commandment:

Key word: **SIGNIFICANCE**

You shall not MISUSE the NAME of the Lord your God!

What does this mean? Catechism page 59

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?
- In Biblical times
Name = **WHO YOU ARE**
Name = **REPUTATION**

2. God's name

- To speak God's name is to **KNOW** who God is.
- God's names in the bible are like little **PORTRAITS** or **PROMISES**.
- Tells **ABOUT** God or what God **WILL DO** for us.

3. 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**
 - Genesis 22:14 **LORD WILL PROVIDE**
 - Isaiah 9:6 **WONDERFUL COUNSELOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FTEHR, PRINCE OF PEACE**
 - Matthew 1:21 **JESUS, SAVIOR**
 - Mark 8:29 **CHRIST, MESSIAH, PROMISED ONE**
 - John 1:29 **LAMB OF GOD, SACRIFICE FOR OUR SINS**

- What do you think we are saying about God when...
 - We text OMG?
 - We say “Jesus Christ” as an adjective, or reaction to a situation?

- Is it alright to substitute the name of God for something else? I.e. instead of “Oh my God” we say “Oh my gosh?” What do you think? 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?

4. When you honor His **NAME**, you **HONOR** God. He has **SIGNIFICANCE** in your life.

- What does the word “significance” means? How is honoring God displaying how significant he is in your life? If something is important to you, do you not praise it and lift it up to high esteem?

5. 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**

Scenerio: Think of a scenario that jr high student may face where they will struggle to keep this commandment.

Commandment 2 "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God":

3rd Commandment:

Key word: REMEMBER

Remember the SABBATH day by keeping it HOLY!

What does this mean? Catechism page 67

1. Read Matthew 11:28-30

- Jesus invites us to COME to him and he promises us REST
- Rest comes from knowing that GOD/JESUS will take care of all your needs.

A. Sabbath = REST

- Worship is a time of REST.
- Rest comes when we REMEMBER all that God has done for us.
- The Bible tells us what GOD has done for us.

(When we come to church to worship, or enter a time of worship, we come into his presence, we are united with him. When this happens there is rest, because we don't have to worry or be concerned about all the things that are going on. We just stop and focus on the love, grace, forgiveness, hope, peace that Jesus has for us. We remember the truth that He cares, and he gives us the strength to overcome the stuff of this world.)

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

2. Read Ecclesiastes 5:1

B. What's the warning in this verse?

IF YOU DON'T PROTECT YOURSELF, YOU'LL FALL INTO TEMPTATION

C. What's the promise in this verse?

DRAW NEAR AND LISTEN, GOD IS PRESENT

- 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. Read Acts 2:42, 46

- The early church **DEVOTED** themselves to the **APOSTLES'** teaching
- To **FELLOWSHIP**
- To the **BREAKING** of **BREAD**
- And to **PRAYER**

(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? Why?

- Worship can be on any day
 - Old Testament = **SATURDAY (7TH DAY OF THE WEEK)**
 - New Testament = **SUNDAY (1ST DAY OF THE WEEK)**
- Why did the early church decide to worship on Sundays instead of Saturday (the Sabbath)?
 - It is a mini "**EASTER**" worship service.

4. 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**

Scenerio: Think of a scenario that jr high student may face where they will struggle to keep this commandment.

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

4th Commandment:

Key word: FOUNDATION

Honor your FATHER and MOTHER, that it may go WELL with you and that you may ENJOY long life on the earth!

What does this mean? Catechism page 77

1. The fourth commandment is the FOUNDATION for the 2ND 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 the EARTH.

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?

We don't have to agree with everyone, but we must honor and respect them with our disagreements.

- Is this easy to do? Why or why not?

- God was **PROTECTING** and **PROVIDING** for their relationships.

3. What does it mean to honor?

- Honor: High **RESPECT**, as for **WORTH**,
MERIT, or **RANK**
- Who should we honor?
 - a) Ephesians 6:1-2 **PARENTS**
 - b) Hebrews 13:7,17 **CHURCH LEADERS**
 - c) 1 Peter 2:13-14 **GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, TEACHERS, BOSSES**

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.

5. Parents should also learn from God on this commandment

- Read 1 John 4:19- We **LOVE** because he first **LOVED** us.
- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and answer the following questions as a group.

A. Why is it important to believe in just one God?

B. How do you love God with all your whole heart, soul and strength?
Give examples.

C. What do you think it means to have these commandments “upon your heart”? Why is the heart important?

D. The word “impress” mean press hard enough to make a indent upon something (i.e. holding a quarter to the top of your hand long and hard in order to see the imprint of the quarter on your skin when you remove the quarter)? When was a time you had a good conversation about God in your home? What made it memorable?

E. What symbols of the faith are important to you and where do you have them displayed?

- Primary duties of a parent are to **LOVE** God, **LOVE** their kids, and **TEACH** them about God.

6. Read Proverbs 13:24

- Parent's duty to show love even in **DISCIPLINE**.
 - *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 (IMPRESS)**

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

- Read Acts 5:29 and Matthew 10:37
 - When they go **AGAINST** God's **WORD**

8. Catechism page 83

Do...

•**HONOR** by **SERVING** and **OBEYING** in **LOVE** and **RESPECT** always.

Don't...

•**DISOBEY**

•**DISHONOR**

•Cause **ANGER**

Scenerio: Think of a scenario that jr high student may face where they will struggle to keep this commandment.

Commandment 4 "Honor your father and mother":

5th Commandment:

Key word: VALUE

You shall not MURDER!

What does this mean? Catechism page 85

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

a) Read Matthew 5:22

i. What 3 things are listed here that cause us to break this commandment?

- ANGRY
- INSULTS
- PUT DOWNS

ii. Jesus wants to get at our attitude towards **LIFE.**

- Do you VALUE life?

Or

do you DEVALUE 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.)

- Read Psalm 139:13

“For **YOU** (God) **FORMED** my inward parts; you **KNITTED** me together in my mother’s **WOMB**”

- God is the **CREATOR** of all **THINGS/LIFE**
- Your life is **SPECIAL** because God knew you before you were even **MADE**.

- What is God’s view on life?
 - God values **LIFE**
 - God considers **ALL** life **SACRED**
 - All life is a **GIFT**

- When you receive a gift, what do you do with it? How do you treat it? How do you take care of it? Why would you do this?

(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 are your thoughts about...

- Capital Punishment
-

- War
-

- Physician Assisted Suicide
-

4. Read Deuteronomy 32:39, Psalm 31:15, Romans 13:4

- What do these verses say about taking another person's life?
 - Only **GOD** or his **REPRESENTATIVES** in government have the **RIGHT** to end a person's life.

5. Is this murder? Why or why not?

- Hatred ~ Read 1 John 3:15
-
-
-

(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 another person

(When we lie about another person we ruin their reputation, see Commandment 8, and therefore devaluing their life.)

- Put downs or 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.”)

- Physical or emotional bullying

(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, snapping, tweeting something bad about 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.)

- Cyber bullying

(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.)

6. Catechism page 89

Do...

Be **PATIENT**

Be **KIND**

Be **FORGIVING**

Be **HELPFUL**

Be a **FRIEND**

Don't do...

HARM my own **BODY**

SUICIDE

Harm **ANOTHER'S** body

MURDER

HATEFUL thoughts and **WORDS**

Scenerio: Think of a scenario that jr high student may face where they will struggle to keep this commandment.

Commandment 5 "You shall not murder":

6th Commandment:

Key word: GUARD

You shall not commit ADULTERY!

What does this mean? Catechism page 91

1. Read the following: Genesis 2:20-25

- Marriage is a BEAUTIFUL gift from GOD!

2. What is marriage?

- Genesis 2:24
“Therefore a MAN shall leave his FATHER and MOTHER and HOLD fast to his WIFE, and they shall BECOME one FLESH.”

(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
A LIFE LONG commitment

(God’s intention for marriage is to be for life. Nobody goes into a marriage relationship not wanting this.)

3. Read Hebrews 13:4

- “Let **MARRIAGE** be held in **HONOR** among all, and let the marriage bed be **UNDEFILED.**”
- God is **PROTECTING** marriage.
- Adultery = **POLLUTION** or **DEFILED.**
- Defiled: **SPOILED** or **VIOLATED**
- When a **MARRIAGE** relationship is **POLLUTED** then other relationships will be **HURT** ... especially with **CHILDREN**

4. What pollutes a marriage relationships?

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**
- **POLLUTION** leads to **BROKEN** relationships

(Not only is this true in a marriage relationship, it is true in everyday 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.)
 - 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 **POLLUTION**.
(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

- Read Genesis 2:18

LOVING COMPANIONSHIP

- Read 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.)

- Read Genesis 1:27-28

CHILDREN

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

- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, Ephesians 5:5
 - Guards you from **POLLUTION** before you get married.

- Read 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 ...

- Be **PURE** in **THOUGHT**, **WORD**
and **ACTS**
- **HONOR** and **LOVE** your marriage
partner (even before you're married)

- **FLEE** temptation
 - How can a teenager “flee” temptation? Genesis 39:6-12
 - What is the temptation Joseph is facing?

 - How many times was he tempted?
A LOT! DAILY
 - In last part of verse 9, Joseph brings his faith into the equation. What did he say?
 - “How then can I do this great **WICKEDNESS** and **SIN** against **GOD**?”
 - Why is this important and what’s this saying to us about resisting this temptation?

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...)

Scenerio: Think of a scenario that jr high student may face where they will struggle to keep this commandment.

Commandment 6 "You shall not commit adultery":

7th Commandment:

Key word: **PRIORITIES**

You shall not STEAL!

What does this mean? Catechism page 99

1. When you think of stealing, what comes to mind?

- **ROBBERY** - banks, stores, etc...
- Holding something or someone for **RANSOM**

2. What about...

- **PILFERING**- *Stealing in small quantities.*

(i.e. Taking candy from a store, paper or supplies from school or a friend)

Any others?

- Stealing of **IDEAS**
(i.e. Cheating on a test, having a parent/friend do your project, Plagiarism- stealing someone's ideas or words)

- Why do you think 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"?

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.)

- Read 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"?

- We will always want **MORE**

4. 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
 - “But seek **FIRST** the kingdom of **GOD** 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...)

5. Right **PRIORITIES** lead to a personal **SELF-WORTH**

- Why do you think this is true?

- 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?

6. God is **PROTECTING** our **SELF-WORTH** because we are **VALUABLE** to him.

7. Catechism page 102

God's gift of possessions:

- **PROVIDE** for our families
- **HELP** the needy
- Pay **TAXES**
- **SUPPORT** 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

Scenerio: Think of a scenario that jr high student may face where they will struggle to keep this commandment.

Commandment 7 "You shall not steal":

8th Commandment:

Key word: **REPUTATION**

You shall not give FALSE testimony against your NEIGHBOR!

What does this mean? Catechism page 106

1. God protects our **REPUTATION**

Think about your 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/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. Truth is that 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**

- Read Proverbs 16:27-28

- “A **WORTHLESS** man **PLOTS** evil, and his **SPEECH** is like a scorching **FIRE**. A **DISHONEST** man spreads **STRIFE**, and a **WHISPERER** separates close **FRIENDS**.”

- God wants your name to have a **GOOD** reputation.

- Read Proverbs 22:1

- “A **GOOD** name is to be **CHOSEN** rather than great **RICHES**, and **FAVOR** is better than silver and gold.”

- 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.)

7. Catechism page 109.

God wants us to...

- **DEFEND** others
- Speak **WELL** of others
- Take the **WORDS** of others in the kindest possible way
 - Why is this difficult to do?

(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.)

- Read 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?

- **LEAD to REPENTANCE**

God wants us not to...

- **LIE**
- **BETRAY**
- Give **ANYONE** a bad **NAME**

Scenerio: Think of a scenario that jr high student may face where they will struggle to keep this commandment.

Commandment 8 "You shall not give false testimony":

9th & 10th Commandments:

Key word: CONTENTMENT

You shall not COVET your neighbor's house (MATERIAL POSSESSIONS).

You shall not covet your NEIGHBOR'S wife, workers, animals, or anything that belongs to your neighbor (LIVING THINGS)

What does this mean? Catechism page 112

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's consumes you and causes you to do things that are not beneficial for you to do in order to get it.)

2. Needs and wants....

- Brainstorm ideas of what needs are.

- Brainstorm ideas of what wants are.

3. Coveting is TURNING a WANT into a NEED.

- Read James 4:1-3
 - Verse 2 “You **DESIRE** and do not have, so you **MURDER**. You **COVET** and cannot obtain, so you **FIGHT** and **QUARREL**. You do not have, because you do not ask.”
(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**, just **ONE** more thing.
- If we could just have.....
 - Share with each other, things that you really would like right now.

- Coveting is never **SATISFIED**, because it always wants **ONE** more thing.
- 80% of what we have we **NEVER** use.
 - You probably only regularly wear only **20%** of the clothes you have.

- 4. Read Philippians 4:11-13, Hebrews 13:5
 - Contentment is greater than being **HAPPY**.
(There’s a difference between contentment and happiness. Happiness mostly comes from a feeling we receive from an outside source. Contentment comes from faith in God knowing that he’s taking care of us.)
 - Happiness is influenced by **OUTSIDE** things.
 - Share a time when you were happy one moment and then all of a sudden something happened and you were unhappy. Your happiness and unhappiness was influenced by what happened outside you. There is nothing wrong with being happy, but God desires for you to be content.
 - Contentment is determined only by **YOU** and your **FAITH!**

(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.")

5. Secret to contentment is learning the **DIFFERENCE** between a **WANT** and a **NEED**.

- There is nothing **WRONG** with wanting things as long as you do not cross over into a **COVET**.
 - 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.
-
-
-

6. Read 1 Timothy 6:10

- “For the **LOVE** of money is a **ROOT** to all kinds of **EVIL**.”
(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?
 - 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 how the LOVE of money (or the love of anything else but God) can affect your heart and decisions?
-
-

7. Catechism page 119

Do ...

- Have **PURE** and **HOLY** desires
Lead to
- God pleasing **WORDS** and **DEEDS**

Don't ...

- **DESIRE** something we should not **WANT**
Lead to
- **SINFUL** words and deeds

Scenarios

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

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

But there is HOPE...

We **CAN'T** keep all the commandments **PERFECTLY**

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

We **FAIL** 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 **WILL** 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.

OVERCOMER

God overcomes our sins and gives us 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. Through Jesus you have overcome your sins!

PURPOSE

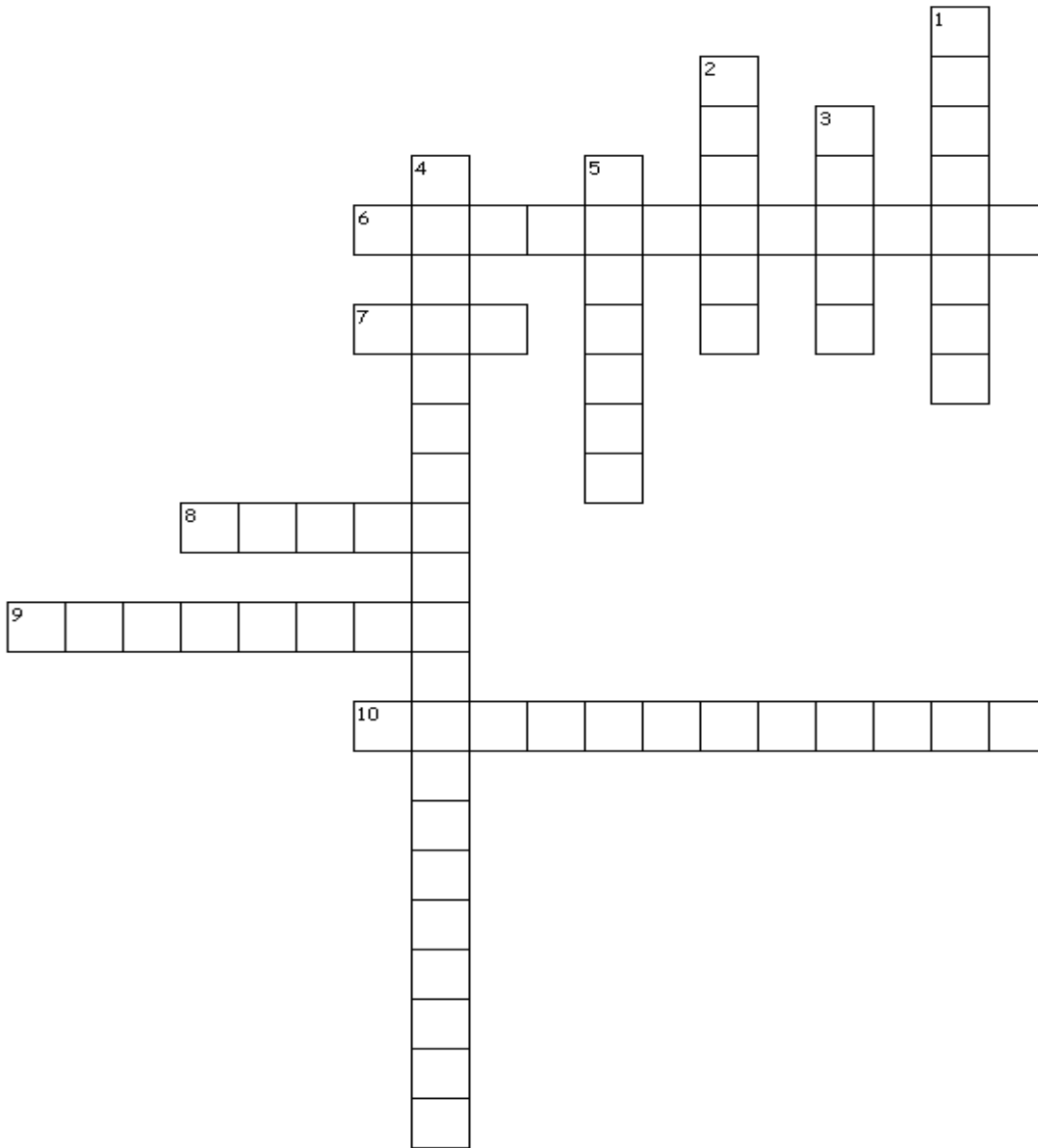
God looks at each of us and says, "You are my child and you have purpose!" We know we have a reason to live, a reason to be here. He put us on this earth to love him and to love our neighbor. When we feel worthless, God says your worth so much to me. When we feel like we don't belong, God says you are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

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 _____
- FOUNDATION _____
- GUARD _____
- LOVE _____
- PRIORITIES _____
- PROTECTS _____
- PROVIDES _____
- REMEMBER _____
- REPUTATION _____
- SIGNIFICANCE _____
- TEN _____
- TRUST _____
- Value _____

What to do now?

10 Commandments Retreat

1. Discussion questions for the ride home and/or at home:

1. Why did God give us the 10 commandments?
2. What was the most important thing you learned this weekend?
3. Why was that really important to you?
4. Which commandment do you think is the hardest to keep? Why?
5. Did your faith grow this weekend? How?
6. Tell me something you didn't know that you learned this weekend.

2. Each student will write a summary report, in paragraph form, on what they learned this weekend. Their report should answer the following questions:

1. Why do we say that God is laying out his love for us in the 10 commandments?
2. What does HOPE mean and why is it important to remember?
3. Why is the first commandment so important to remember and keep? What does trust mean according to this commandment?
4. What are the 3 purposes of the law and what do they mean?
5. What is God's standard for our lives and keeping the commandments (Matthew 5:48)?

Can we do this? Why or why not?

6. Why is it important to continue to follow the commandments today?
7. Other learning and applications from the weekend.

Each report will need to be typed, single spaced, 14 font, one page long. It will need to be turned in to TK by the next Sunday after the retreat. Make sure your name, "10 Commandments report", and date are on the top of the page.