

Exodus 20

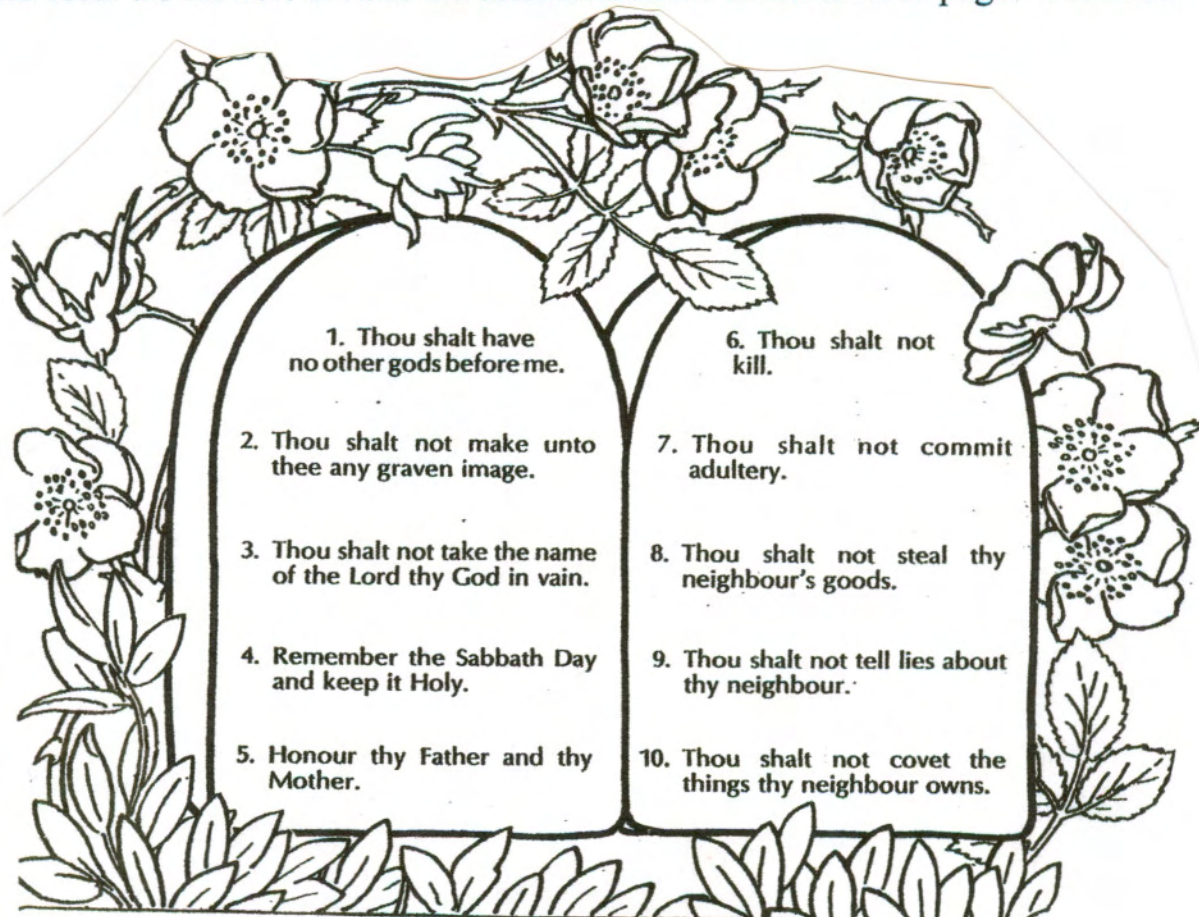
The children of Israel stood in front of Mt. Sinai, looking up in awe and fear. A thick, dark, cloud was covering the top of the mountain and from this cloud bright flashes of lightning could be seen and crashing thunder was heard. Moses had climbed the mountain and disappeared in the clouds, for God had called and told him to come up and get some very important rules that an angel would give him.

Suddenly one of the people pointed, "Look, there is Moses, he's coming down the mountain!" When Moses got close to the people, he told them to stand back from the mountain because God was going to speak to them. "No, we are afraid, you speak God's words to us," they said.

So Moses began to speak and he gave the Israelites ten rules that would help them put God first in their lives and help each other as well. Below are the ten commandments that God wanted Moses to tell the people.

Do you know the ten commandments by heart? Can you tell them to your parents without looking? If not, please memorize them for your memory verse this time, and when you know them, write them on the page at the back of this lesson. These are important commandments that you can use all your life!

You could color the flowers around the commandments to make these pages look nice.



Since these 10 Commandments are very important, lets see what each one means to us.

THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME. This means that the people were not to worship the idols that other nations had. These idols were not really gods but just statues of strange looking men, fish, cows etc. The priests who made the idols would tell the people that these gods wanted them to bring them food and presents (then the priests would use the presents for themselves). There was usually a wild party with drinking and drugs when the people came to worship the idols and sometimes the priests even told the people to bring their babies and killed them as sacrifices to these idols. Idol worship was wicked and God wanted his people to have nothing to do with it.



We don't have false idols now (although some churches do have statues that they think are important). But we can put some things ahead of God. Are there things that sometimes seem more important than reading God's word in the Bible or living God's way? Can you think of some things that might make God second or third in our thoughts instead of **FIRST**? Some people seem to worship money and think getting rich is so important that they have no time for reading the Bible or going to meeting. Sometimes sports might seem more important and people spend hours and hours training for a certain sport but are too tired to do their Bible readings. If a big sport event happens on a Sunday they may choose to go to the game instead of going to Sunday meeting. This puts God second not first, doesn't it? Sometimes a job may seem most important and a parent may spend long hours getting ahead in the job instead of sharing time with their family and with God's word.. How about you or me? Would we rather watch TV or read our Bible? Which is more fun? Probably watching TV or a movie, isn't it? ... But which is more important and will give us **life forever** here on earth, TV or living by God's word? It's so much easier to like the things that are fun now and think about God's words later, isn't it? That's why we need these commandments, so we can think about which is more important to God, and try to put **his** things first...then we can go skateboarding or have friends over for a party.

We have lots of time to eat and sleep and play and work and go to school, but we can always remember God's rules, pray to say "thank you" when we have a good time, read our Bible often and try to worship God and obey his words as much as possible. God wants us to make him # 1 in our lives.

Commandment # 2:**THOU SHALT NOT MAKE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE.**

It seems like people have to have something to look at in order to believe in it. In Moses' time, they made beautiful statues and put clothing on them, put jewels on them and worshipped them as if they were real. In our day some people say, "Why can't we see God?" "How do we know he exists?" "Where is your God?" It seems like it's easier for people to look at a beautiful, gold statue and say "This is what God looks like," than it is to love an invisible God. But God wants us to love him because we have faith and believe in him, without having to look at a statue. We can't see God but we can see what he has made, the sky, stars, trees, puppies, horses ... all kinds of things. He makes rain to grow food and sunny days to enjoy. Every leaf is different, every flower has a design, even a baby mouse the size of a thumb, has tiny veins, a little heart that beats and eyes that see...we **can** see God in all he makes, and we don't need a statue to know he's there, do we?



idol of false god

It pleases God when we can see him through what he has created for us, and believe in him without having a statue or a picture to look at.

Commandment # 3:**THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN.**

What does it mean to take a name in vain? The word "Vain" has more than one meaning, "senseless, useless or to no purpose" is the meaning God is using. This means to call on God's name for no useful reason. To use his name in the silly or wrong way, in anger or cursing or calling on him when we don't really want him for anything ... like saying "Oh God" as an exclamation instead of a call to God, asking him to hear our prayers.

God has a very special name which isn't just a sound but has meaning. In the Hebrew language there are several words for God's name (like: "El, Elohim, and Yahweh") each one has a special meaning. In English these names are all simply called "God." When we use his name in the right way, God listens to us and we can tell him our troubles and pray for his help. When we hit our thumb with a hammer and yell God's name as a cuss word, this is using his name in vain. When we use his name in a silly joke, this is using his name in vain. God wants us to know that he is an awesome creator and being



able to call on his name is very special honor and favor that he gives us. When we call on his name, he is there, listening to us. He doesn't want us misuse this privilege by cursing or joking which would be calling on him in vain.



Commandment # 4:

REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY:

The word "Holy" means "Set Apart or Keep Separate." If your mother has a very special tablecloth that her grandmother sewed for her, do you think she would keep it with her old dish towels? Maybe she would keep it with her dust rags? I don't think she would, I think she would put this tablecloth in a very special place, set apart and separate!

The SABBATH was a special day God "Set Apart" when he created the world. First he made all the things on the planet, then on the 7th day, God rested and made a command that the 7th day was to be "Holy" or set apart from all the other days. This was to be a day when people didn't work but stayed home with their families to pray to God, laugh and play together and talk about God's words. Do we have a day something like this in our week? Sunday is supposed to be like the Sabbath; a day when we don't go to school or work, a day when we are with our families and meet together with others who love God. We can go to a meeting and study God's word, sing songs to praise God and then go home to play games, talk about the Bible, rest and perhaps take time to thank God for all he's given us. Our Sabbath is "holy," for we try to keep it separate from school and work days, don't we?



The first four Commandments tell us of things we need to do to show our love for God. The next 6 Commandments tell us things we need to do to show our love for others.

Commandment # 5:

HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER.

To "honor" someone is to give them respect and love. Our parents gave us life and they give us food and clothing and a warm home to live in. They love us and want to keep us safe and happy, don't they? Do you sometimes yell at your parents? Sometimes try to sneak behind their back to do what you want when they say "no?" This isn't showing them honor, is it?

A lot of kids think it's smart to laugh at their parent's rules and try to get away with things, but this isn't God's way. God asks us to show our father and mother lots of honor and respect. To love and obey them, even when we might be mad at them or disagree with a certain rule. Just as God knows what's best for us, our parents also know what's best and we want to show them we honor, don't we?



Commandment # 6:

THOU SHALT NOT KILL.



It is very wrong to kill another person, whether they are an enemy or not. God has told us to love our enemies, to care for all people, no matter what they do to us. It is also wrong to kill an any animal or living thing just for the fun of it. Have you ever seen children pull legs off grasshoppers or wings off butterflies? I'm sure God is very unhappy when his people are so cruel to the creatures he made. God watches over all his creation and knows when even the most unimportant little bird falls to the ground. We need to always be kind and loving to others and God's creatures, even if they aren't nice to us. We must not kill!

Commandment # 7:

THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.



A man and a woman who are married to each other are to be kind to love each other and stay together to raise their family. In Moses' time many people who worshipped idols also traded husbands and wives back and forth. This was very wrong in God's eyes. Today we might see a movie or TV where a couple will look for other men and women to love, while they are still married to their husband or wife. This is called "adultery." Some married people think they can fool their husband or wife and pretend to love them while they are going out with other men or women. This can cause much unhappiness and even divorce. God wants a man and a woman to get married, have children and make a loving home for them. God knows what is best for married couples and their children, that's why he gives us these commandments to follow.

Commandment # 8:

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL.

This is a pretty easy commandment to understand, isn't it? We know that it's wrong to take something that belongs to another person. We may think it's pretty easy to slip a candy bar into a pocket when at the store, or maybe take \$5.00 out of mom's purse, or take that bright green ruler from the boy that sits next to you at school. You may not be caught by the store manager or your mother or the boy next to you, but God sees everything we do and he knows what you've done. We should treat others better than ourselves and love them like ourselves. You don't want your favorite book stolen, or the birthday money grandpa gave you, would you? It hurts others when their things are stolen and God doesn't want us to ever hurt others, but to take care of them instead. Stealing is hurtful and wrong.



Commandment # 9:

THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS.

This means we are not to tell a lie, especially a lie about another person. God wants us to be kind to others, even people we might not like very much. When a crime is committed, someone who knows about it is to go to court and tell what they saw. This is a witness. Let's say you see a car wreck. Sam was driving one car and Jane the other car. Now you happen to like Jane but Sam has been mean to you in the past. When the policeman asks who caused the accident, do you tell the truth, or do you tell him "Sam did it," even though it was really Jane's fault? If you said Sam did it, you were bearing false witness. You were telling a lie that would hurt Sam, weren't you? Anytime we tell a lie we are hurting someone, and we are always hurting ourselves by telling a lie. It's awfully easy to slip out with a little lie, but it is wrong. We could bear false witness by going to court and saying a man committed a crime when he didn't, or you could bear false witness by saying you didn't trip your brother when he walked by. Either one is wrong and God knows what the truth is.



Commandment # 10:

THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY NEIGHBORS GOODS.

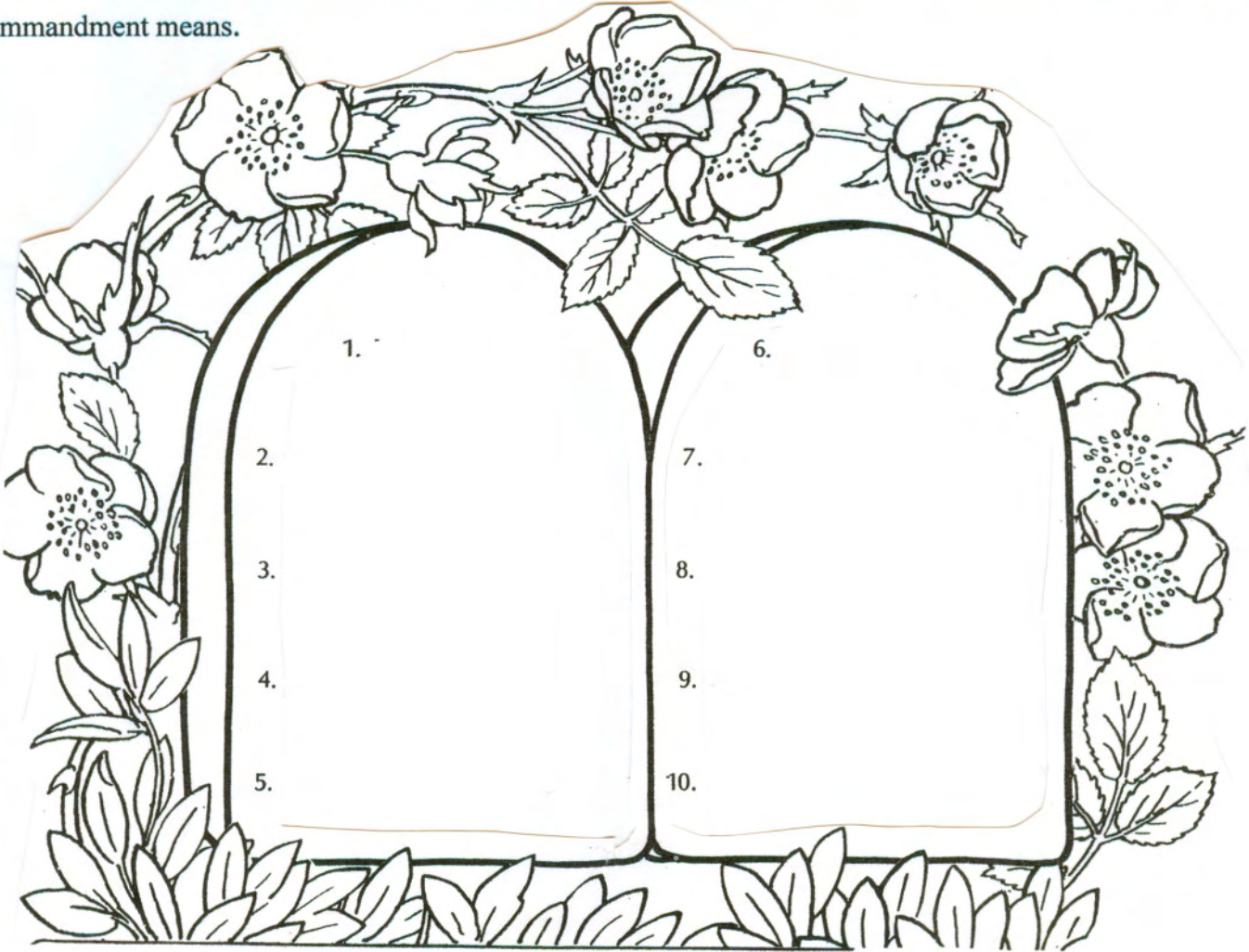
To "covet" is to wish very, very, much for something that belongs to another person. Have you sometimes wanted something belonging to someone else? Suppose the girl next door gets a new bike with all kinds of extra things on it. You would really like a bike like that, you ask mom and dad to get you one but they can't afford it. You dream about that bike at night and you hate that girl because she has the bike and you don't. This is what it's like to covet something that belongs to others. To covet something very, very much, shows we aren't happy with what we have. God gives us everything we need, like food and clothes and a home and family. It's not right to keep wanting more and more and not right to be unhappy because you can't have what your neighbor has. We should be happy with what God has given us and thankful to God for all we have. Coveting others things can make us unhappy, unthankful, people. Instead we should be glad for others when they get something nice, and happy with the things God gives us, shouldn't we?

Can you think of some things that you might be tempted to covet?



Question and memory verse Page

Without looking, see if you can write the 10 commandments in the space below, then check your answers with the first page. Below the 10 commandments write in your own words what you think each commandment means.



1st commandment means:

2nd commandment means:

3rd commandment means:

4th commandment means:

5th commandment means:

6th commandment means:

7th commandment means:

8th commandment means:

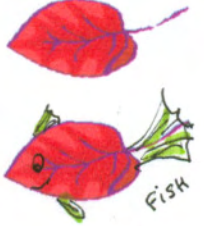
9th commandment means:

10th commandment means:



This time of year there are many leaves falling from the trees.

On the paper below make a "Leaf Book" (you could add more papers for more leaves if you want). Collect some pretty leaves of different shapes, press them overnight under a heavy book (put newspaper under and over the leaves so they don't stain anything). The next day, glue the leaves to the paper and then draw faces, hands, feet, fins, wings, or whatever to make leaf animals or leaf people. We've given you an example in the pictures below.



Find some hidden books of the Bible in the sentences below. You'll need to take off a letter sometimes and sometimes take away the spaces. We've done the first one for you.. (Answers are on the back)

Here are the facts. (facts = take away the f and you'll have the book of Acts)

. Buy that small ukelele. _____

. She brewes a good cup of tea. _____

. We like grape jam especially well. _____

. Is this a markdown sale? _____

. I met my cousin Hiram at the well. _____

. After playing the trumpet, Eric sat down. _____

. The bird built her nest here. _____



Unscramble the Old Testament books of the Bible listed below. (Answers are on the back).

E L O J _____

G U D J E S _____

M S L P S A _____

N E G S I E S _____

Z I K E E L I _____

A G I G H A _____

G I K N S _____





1. Acts (f-acts)
2. Luke (smal l-uke-lele)
3. Hebrews (s-he-brewws)
4. James (jam-es-pecially)
5. Mark (mark-down)
6. Matthew (Hira-m-at-the-w -ell)
7. Peter (trum-pet-er-ic)
8. Esther (n-est-her-e)



1. Joel
2. Judges
3. Psalms
4. Genesis
5. Ezekiel
6. Hagai
7. Kings