

GOD GIVES THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

EXODUS 20:1-4, 20:7-8, 20:11-17; GALATIANS 3:24

LEARN THE WORD

Exodus 20:1-3

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."

- The Ten Commandments tell us how to respect God and treat others.
- The Ten Commandments show us our sin and need for a Savior—Jesus.

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

OUTWORD FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION

Suppose a friend says to you, "I don't think God would punish me. I'm sure that I'll go to heaven when I die. I haven't done anything terrible, like kill someone!"

What could you say?

Most people haven't committed a sin like murder, but it's wrong to compare ourselves to others to determine what sin is. Instead, we should see what God calls sin in the Bible. He gave Ten Commandments that show how He wants us to live. These commands include putting God first, speaking His name with respect, obeying our parents, telling the truth, and being content with the things we have. God says in His Word that when we break even one of the commandments it is as though we have broken all of them. If we're honest, we've all broken one or more of these commands. How many times have you disobeyed your parents, lied, or wanted something that someone else has? God's laws show us that we all sin. It doesn't matter if we're breaking different commands than someone else; the point is that we're all guilty of breaking God's command to be holy. That's why God sent His Son, Jesus, to die and take the punishment for our sins. If we could be good enough, He wouldn't have sent Jesus to die.

Activity: Use the pictures to help you fill in the crossword puzzle with the meanings of each commandment.

Word Bank

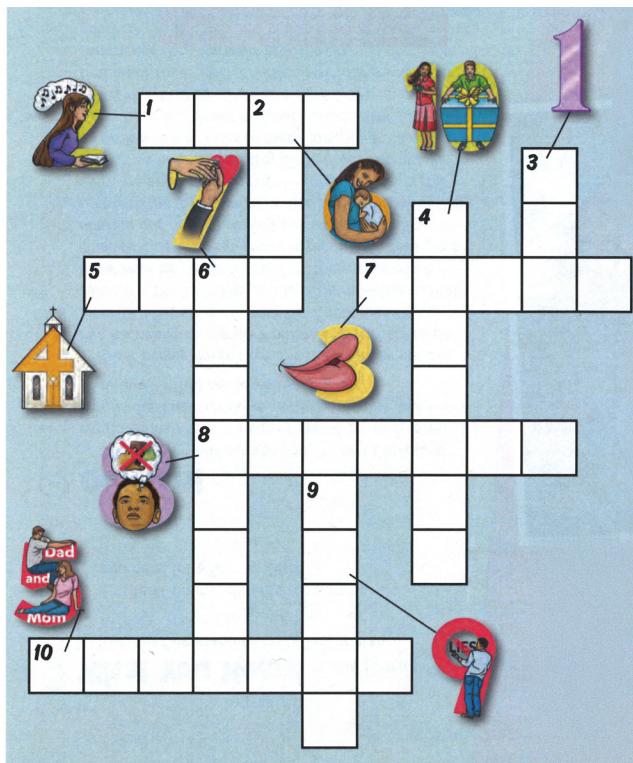
Only	Content
God	Life
Marriage	Parents
Respect	Time
Truth	Words

Across

1. Worship ___ God.
5. Take ___ for God.
7. Honor God with your ___.
8. ___ other people's things.
10. Obey your ___.

Down

2. Respect human ___.
3. Put ___ first.
4. Be ___ with what you have.
6. Obey God's design for ___.
9. Tell the ___.



HOMEWORD FOR PARENTS

Within three months of leaving Egypt, the Israelites came to Mount Sinai in the wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula. It was here that God called to Moses and declared His covenant to His people (Exodus 19:1-5). God revealed His holiness and power through a thick cloud, lightning, thunder, and quaking on the mountain. Then He delivered the Ten Commandments to the people (Exodus 20). God also gave other laws (Exodus 21-23), which Moses told the people and then wrote down (Exodus 24:3-4).

This law, given in the center of God's glory, is a revelation to all men that God demands perfection. God's moral law works to reveal to us that we fall desperately short of God's standard. But as sinners, we see our own ways as right (Proverbs 21:2). We attempt to justify our sin by claiming to be better than others. This thinking can only lead to death and destruction. Our own deeds will never make us righteous before a holy God—they are like a polluted garment (Isaiah 64:6), and we are condemned as lawbreakers. That is the bad news.

But once we realize that we are condemned by the law, our mouths are stopped, and we have no defense (Romans 3:19). The law then acts as a guardian, or teacher, to bring us to Christ (Galatians 3:24). We understand that we fall short of God's holy standard and are subject to the judgment of God. This realization drives us to Christ, who took the punishment for sinners. That is the good news! God has provided a way of salvation through Christ (John 3:16).