

LG | Leader

[Exodus 20:3]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go the Lord in prayer.

- Since this is week one of our Bedrock series focusing on the 10 Commandments, what has been your experience with the 10 commandments? When/how were you introduced to them?
- Without using any helps, who can recite the 10 Commandments?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Let's read through all 10 Commandments (Exodus 20:1-21). Upon reading through this text, why do you think the Lord created the 10 commandments?
[This just provides dialogue for your group and it gives you a reference point for growth when we conclude the series]. The 10 Commandments accomplish many things, but they primarily act towards establishing a covenant relationship. Upon leaving Egypt, Israel did not have a clear identity and purpose. God would use this revelation of the 10 Commandments; to show the sinfulness of man, to demonstrate the need of a mediator, and outline how humans can live freely under God's design and authority.
2. When we arrive at this text, what has Israel recently been through?
Israel has been under Egyptian rule as slaves for over 400 years. God has led them out of the land of oppression and is leading them to the land of Promise (Canaan). The 10 plagues of Exodus and the parting of the Red Sea are still fresh on their mind.
3. For most, the 10 Commandments represent Law and Justice, but how do they represent God's Grace and Mercy?
God desired for us to have a mirror in which we can see our sin. In giving these covenant expectations, which are impossible to fulfill, God makes us realize that we can never be "good" enough for Him by our works. By doing this, He sets the stage for Jesus. Jesus was able to fulfill the law and He died and rose again so that we too can stand perfect and blameless before God. "By grace we are saved through faith and this is not of our own doing, but it is a gift from God" – Ephesians 2:8-9).
4. What does God ultimately communicate to us in the 1st Commandment?
God's Mercy (Personal Relationship), God's Authority (Monotheism), God's Exclusivity (Allegiance)

5. If someone approached you and said the 10 Commandments are old, antiquated, and not relevant how might you (gracefully) respond? Are the 10 Commandments just a symbol or are they still active for us today?

[Allow your time group to process and respond – help them navigate these questions]

6. Should you teach the 10 Commandments to your children? Why or why not?

[Allow your time group to process and respond – help them navigate this question]. There are many reasons why we should, but the Lord answers this question in Deut. 6:4-9. In addition, Jesus affirms the 10 Commandments throughout the New Testament giving us even more evidence to cherish these Commandments.

7. What do you think God's ultimate pursuit was for Israel and for us today?

God has always desired relationship with His people. In giving the 10 Commandments, He wasn't just interested in a well-behaved nation, He wanted a people who He could be in relationship with. The laws, apart from covenant relationship, have no ultimate significance (Source: Merrill, Rooker, Grisanti – *The World and the Word*. Pg. 210).

PRAY

Use this time to think specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.