

Small Group Discussion Guide

EXODUS 20:2-17

“More than Don’ts”

Based on Sunday’s
Sermon 11/02/25

Background

“The Ten Commandments summarize God's laws for loving Him and our neighbors, reflecting His nature and guiding our relationships. While the Ten Commandments were given to Israel, their core principles still inform Christian living, showing our need for Jesus to fulfill the law and provide salvation.”¹ Jesus mentions the Ten Commandments in many of his teachings. In fact, 9 of the 10 commandments from Exodus are repeated in the New Testament. Can you guess which one is not? It is important to realize that they are more than don’ts. For every “don’t” there is a “do” that goes with it, and the Bible expands on that throughout. If we search, the Ten Commandments can lead us into a deeper understanding of God’s character, what is sin, and how we as Christians ought to live – by loving Christ and showing Christ’s love to others.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

1. Many of us learned the Ten Commandments as children, but remembering as adults is often a challenge. Have fun remembering by seeing how many can recall them. Ask the group to try and remember all ten, then see if as a group you can put them in order! Try not to use your Bible. If you can’t remember, don’t worry, you are not alone! Check your answers by reading Exodus 20:2-17. (If you know them all by heart, let others try to guess)

Observation

2. After you read Exodus 20:2-17, which commandments would you consider vertical, and which ones would you consider horizontal? (hint: think relationships)
3. Which commandments are longer and more detailed? Discuss them. Which are the shortest?
4. Which commandment comes with a promised reward for keeping it? Discuss your thoughts about it.

¹ www.compellingtruth.org/ten-commandments.html

Interpretation

5. Read Matthew 22:34-40. How do the two commandments in this passage connect to the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20?
6. Read Matthew 5:17. How has Christ fulfilled the Law, which is summarized by the Ten Commandments? Look up this passage list and talk about how they point to Christ as the fulfillment of the law and try to connect them to one of the Ten Commandments: 1 Corinthians 8:6, Colossians 1:15, Hebrews 13:15, Matthew 11:28-30, Ephesians 6:1-3, Ephesians 5:1-2, Ephesians 5:25.
7. Every “don’t” in the Ten Commandments has a “do” found somewhere in the Bible. Try to come up with as many as you can. (Example: You shall not murder...love your enemies)
8. Read James 2:8-13. How are the commandments interconnected and not stand alone? Why is it that if we fail in keeping one, we are guilty of all?

Application

9. Read Ephesians 4:28. What is the “do” explained here, and how can we live it out in our lives?
10. Read Ps 119:57–64. What should be our response to God’s commandments? How can the Ten Commandments be more than a list of don’ts in our lives?