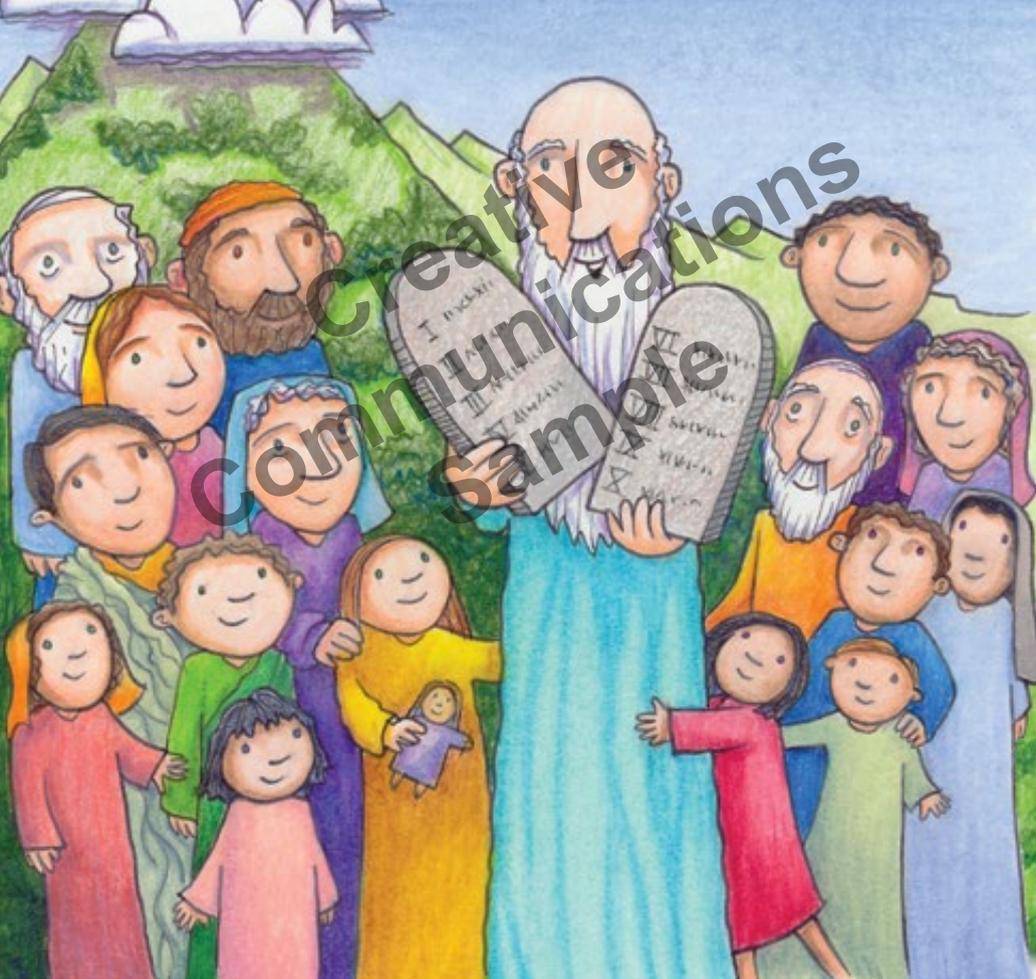


Learning About the Ten Commandments





You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet ... anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Here's a fun game. It has no rules, so you can do whatever you want! Ready? Get set! Go!

Hey, why aren't you playing? Oh, right. You need to know how to play. You need rules. Otherwise, it isn't a game. Imagine soccer without rules: no referees, no whistles, no goal lines. You could kick and throw. It might be fun for a while, but how would you score or win?

I

II

Rules and goal lines aren't just for games. Imagine walking past a house with a barking dog—and no fence to keep you safe. Imagine your parents trying to drive without traffic laws.

III

To be safe and happy, we need rules and boundaries. Long ago, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments for the same reason. God loves us and cares about our safety and happiness. He wanted us to know how to be fair, loving, kind and holy. God wrote his laws on stone tablets to show that he is always with us.

IV

V

But God didn't just give us rules. Have you ever played with someone who bosses you around? Not fun! God doesn't force us to do anything. Instead, he allows us the freedom to make our own choices. But to help us make the right choices, he gives us the Ten Commandments. The Holy Spirit helps us live according to God's commands.

VI

VII

VIII

IX

X

In the Bible God tells us that his law—his commandments—are written on the hearts of all people, even people who do not know and love him (Romans 2:15). We sometimes call the commands of God written on our hearts our “conscience.” Our conscience helps us know what is right and what is wrong.

conscience

[KON-shenz]

Sometimes God’s commandments are like a mirror. We read and study the Ten Commandments and we realize that we do not always follow the commandments as we should. It is like looking in a mirror and finding out that we are not as good as we think we are. We know that we have sinned against God. We tell God that we are sorry for our sins and ask him to forgive us. God sent Jesus to die on the cross and rise from the dead to save us from sin and death. Because Jesus died and rose for us, God forgives our sins.

God has sent his Holy Spirit into our hearts. The Holy Spirit helps us to follow God’s commands. The commandments teach us how to love God and love others. The commandments help us to live in love like Jesus did.

Read this book and put the stickers in their places. When you’re finished, you’ll know about the Ten Commandments and how they tell of God’s love for us.



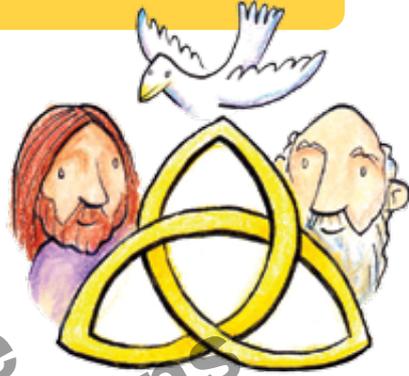
God, thank you for giving me your commandments. Help me to follow them and live in love.

The First Commandment



You shall have no other gods before me.

When Moses climbed the mountain to get the Ten Commandments, the sky grew dark, thunder rumbled, lightning flashed and trumpets blared. Moses was gone for a long time, and the people of Israel became frightened. Instead of trusting God, they put their trust in other things. They made up a pretend god and worshipped it.



Sometimes we think of God as “up there” in heaven and not here among us. We start thinking that other things—like having lots of friends or new stuff in our homes—are important. But God is always with us, loving us and guiding us. He gives us every gift—our families, homes, friends, food, pets, toys, talents—everything. We love God’s gifts, but we love God more!

I follow the First Commandment when I ...

- ... pray to God and trust his Word.
- ... don't let other things—like sports or clothes or video games, or even friends—become more important than God.
- ... try to follow all of his commands.

Dear God, I love you above all things. Help me live by your laws so I can be happy always.

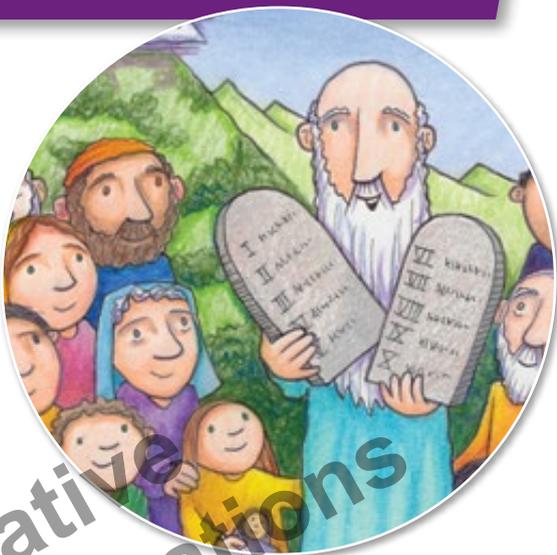
Place
sticker
here

DO YOU

KNOW GOD'S RULES?

More than just a bunch of "dos" and "don'ts," the Ten Commandments are God's loving guidelines for living a safe and happy life. By following them, we grow closer to God and to one another.

As you learn about each of the Ten Commandments, you will learn how to tell right from wrong and how to make loving choices.



Jesus, you always followed the Ten Commandments, and you loved the Father and us perfectly. Help us to follow God's path for our lives and to love others as we have been loved. Amen.

Learning About the Ten Commandments