

Bible Discovery

Week of August 3



Bible Point: God guides us, so...trust God!

Key Verse: "I will bless the Lord who guides me." (Psalm 16:7)

Bible Story: God Gives the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)

After watching the video of the story, have a Bible handy. You can have older children who are readers find this story in the Bible. Have them help you read the story out of the Bible.

Following the battle with the Amalekites, Moses led the Israelites to Mount Sinai, where years earlier he met God at the burning bush. Again God spoke to Moses—this time promising that Israel would be God's treasured possession, His holy people, if they would obey Him. Then God gave Moses a list of laws by which the Israelites should live. The Hebrew word for "Ten Commandments" is "Ten Words," since the term "words" was the technical expression for covenant guidelines. On Sinai, God laid down his expectations for righteous living. These guided the Israelites as they formed a new nation. God provided the "Ten Words" to keep his people safe, unified, and focused on their relationship with him. In the thousands of years that have passed since this event, one thing hasn't changed: We *need* to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. This covenant—or agreement—between God and his people is more than a list of do's and don'ts; the Ten Commandments bring God's character to light. Through these words from God, we discover what God values and expects from his people.

1. The first commandment says that we shouldn't have any gods except our one true God. If we follow fake gods, we're missing out on what the one true God has for us. **Question:** Why do you think God wants us to honor only him?
 2. The second commandment says we shouldn't have idols in our lives. That means things that matter more to us than God. If we put anything other than God first in our lives, we can get hurt. **Question:** What kinds of things in our lives might be idols?
 3. The third commandment says don't misuse the name of God. When we misuse God's name, we're not showing honor to Him. **Question:** Have you ever heard someone say God's name in a bad way, maybe when they're mad or upset?
 4. The fourth commandment says to keep the Sabbath day holy. Not keeping the Sabbath holy can hurt us because it takes our attention away from God. **Question:** What kinds of things would people rather do on Sunday, instead of going to church or thinking about God?
 5. The fifth commandment says to honor your mother and father. It can be hurtful if we don't honor our parents. **Question:** What are some ways kids don't honor their parents? And what might happen when you don't honor your parents?
 6. The sixth commandment says don't murder. **Question:** What happens when someone murders another person?
 7. The seventh commandment says that husbands and wives should stay true to each other. **Question:** What happens when husbands and wives don't stay true to each other?
 8. The eighth commandment says not to steal. That's a good commandment to listen to. Stealing can cause a lot of hurt. **Question:** What happens when you steal?
 9. The ninth commandment says not to lie. It feels really bad when friends don't trust us. We don't want that to happen. **Question:** What bad things might happen if you lie?
 10. The tenth commandment! It says not to covet what someone else has. Coveting can make us feel really terrible. **Question:** Have you ever really, really wanted something that belonged to someone else? How does wanting that thing make you feel?
- Question:** How can these 10 commandments help you make good decisions?

God knows which choices might hurt us and which choices will keep us safe. *That's why* he gives us rules and guidelines—to keep us safe and happy.

