

Sermon Discussion Guide 7.30.23

Pastor Carmen Schrock-Hurst

Ten Commandments: Exodus 20: 1- 17

Opening questions: Invite class members to reflect on times in their lives when they found the Ten Commandments useful as a guardrail for life. How does knowledge of these commandments shape your lives on a day-to-day basis?

Read and reflect: Take time to read some of the details surrounding God's giving of the Ten Words. (Exodus 19:7-20:1) How do you suppose the context of escaping from slavery and wandering in the desert shaped the children of Israel's ability to receive and obey God's commandments?

Truth or Dare: Spend a few moments in silence as you reflect on each of the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17). Ask yourself: which one or two of these teachings has been most helpful in my own life? Why? Which one or two of these teachings have you struggled with the most? Why?

To ponder: How has your experience with the Ten Commandments changed as you have aged? Do you think you find more or less wisdom in these words as you gain more life experience?

Christ and the Law: Matthew 5:17-19 What do you make of these words of Jesus? Do you believe that Christ's coming changes how we view the Ten Commandments? "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Optional/Interacting with current events: Share some examples that you are aware of where there have been court cases about displaying the Ten Commandments. Why do you think the Ten Commandments have become so controversial in our society?

Prayer: God of covenant and promise, thank you for gifting us with guardrails for our lives. Grant us the wisdom and courage that we need to walk in the obedience you long for. In the name of Jesus, who fulfilled the law, AMEN.