

Carved in Stone

Embracing God's Value System

Adult Lesson Thirteen

Go!

Then you shall say to your children, "We were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. The LORD displayed before our eyes great and awesome signs and wonders against Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his household. He brought us out from there in order to bring us in, to give us the land that he promised on oath to our ancestors. Then the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our lasting good, so as to keep us alive, as is now the case. If we diligently observe this entire commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, we will be in the right" (Deuteronomy 6:22-25, NRSV).

This is the last week of this series on the Ten Commandments. The major focus of this lesson is a charge to go and be the people of God in our world. During this challenge we will answer the question of Deuteronomy 6:20, "What is the meaning of the decrees and the statutes that the LORD our God has commanded you?" Our answer will include that we once were slaves, but God freed us. Then he gave us commandments for our good. We allow these commandments to shape our relationship with God and with people because we are called to accurately show God to others. Our hope is that other slaves will want to be free.

You may wish to use this lesson to review certain issues or commandments that were problematic or particularly meaningful for your class. This lesson is designed in such a way that you can bring up particular commandments or areas for discussion without losing the major focus of the lesson. Please feel free to do this. In any case this session should help review the key elements of the Ten Commandments.



OBJECTIVES

- Review how the Ten Commandments shape our relationship with God.
- Review how our relationship with God shapes our relationship with others.
- Challenge the class to go forth and "live out" being the people of God.

SCRIPTURE

- Deuteronomy 6:20-25
- Exodus 20:3-17
- Jeremiah 18:1-6

WHAT YOU NEED

- Copies of Handout #13.1 for everyone in the class
- Copies of Handout #13.2 for everyone in the class
- Chalk/chalkboard; marker/dry erase board; or something else to write on
- Pencils/pens

Part 1 - Ten again

Distribute Handout #13.1. Give these instructions: **As you may recall, the first week of this series we tried to write the Ten Commandments from memory. Try to list them again, using just a key word or phrase.** Give the class five minutes or so to work on this. When they are finished ask **How many of you knew more this time?** Congratulate them, then have them list them as you write them on the chalkboard. Leave space to the right to fill in the information for the second half of this activity. Say **Now, to the right of each of the commandments, briefly write about an area in your life where that commandment is shaping how you live. Remember to keep Jesus' teaching on the commandments in mind while doing this.** Give the class five minutes or so to write these out. After they are finished, begin with the first commandment and ask how each commandment plays out in life. On the chalk- or whiteboard, write down beside each commandment the answers that are given.

Part 2 - What does it mean?

Have someone read Deuteronomy 6:20. Say **This is the question we want to deal with today. What is the meaning of these commandments that we've been studying for the past three months?** Give the class time to answer this question. It's likely that they will not have an answer immediately. If this is the case say **Remember, this is the question that the Israelite parents are supposed to be able to answer when their children ask. If your child or someone else's child asked you what the commandments mean, what would you tell them?** The answers may vary widely at this point. That's okay. The point is not to have a "right" answer, but to help your class think through and formulate this answer. It may help encourage the class to share if you write the answers on the board.

Part 3 - The story of us

After this question has been answered, say **Let's see how Moses instructed the people of Israel to answer this question.** Have someone read Deuteronomy 6:21-25. Distribute Handout #13.2. Say **Moses' answer to the question of "What does it mean" was to tell the salvation story. Let's walk through this together.** On the chalk- or whiteboard write the headings "We were slaves," "Signs and wonders," "He brought us," "For our good." Say **Our story is different from their story, but our God and our commandments are the same. There was a time when each of us were slaves. To what were we enslaved?** (Sin, addictions, selfishness, poverty, etc.) **On the first section of your handout write down some things from which God delivered you.** If there are class members who don't mind sharing, write their answers below your first heading on the board. Allow some time for this.

Say **God performed many miracles to help the Israelites escape slavery: the parting of the Red Sea, the plagues, manna from heaven. What are some miracles**

God has done in your life or those you love as you have escaped slavery? (Answers here might include freedom from addiction, forgiveness of sin, or more "traditional" miracles of healings or unexplained events.) **Write down miracles you've seen in your life.** Again, if some don't mind sharing, write their answers on the board.

Say **We all have stories of the journey from deliverance to where we are today. However, for this part, let's look at the bigger journey of our church or families. Remember, Moses is speaking to people forty years after the Exodus. Their stories are the stories of their parents and grandparents. Part of our stories involve those who have come before us. Take some time to write the stories of those who helped you along the way: the stories of your church, your friends, and your family.** Again, write on the board the answers of those willing to share.

Say **If the Israelites kept the commandments, God promised that they would live long in the land. What are the promises to us if we do God's will?** (Some answers here include heaven, God's faithfulness, God's peace, He will never forsake us.) Write the answers on the board of those willing to share.

Now is the chance to tell the story of the class. Ask the question to the class **What is the meaning of the decrees and the statutes and the ordinances that the LORD our God has commanded you?** To answer this question, use the worksheets and/or what you have written on the board. One person could link together a line from each section of the worksheet, or four volunteers could each read a line from one section in consecutive order. The response will sound something like this: "We were once slaves to (alcohol), but God did great miracles among us and (freed us from addiction). He brought us out and led us by (the example of a godly grandmother.) If we allow his commandments to shape who we are, he promises to (never leave us or forsake us)."

We all have stories of the journey from deliverance to where we are today.

If you have been re-writing the commandments every week, this is a good time to read your completed list.

Part 4 - Go!!

Say **Just like the Israelites, we are called to be God's people in this world. The Ten Commandments give us the over-arching view of the kind of community God uses to make his name known. As we go out into the real world of work, family, and relationships, the temptation to be molded and shaped by the world is everywhere. The only thing stopping us from adopting a worldly view is the memory of where we came from, where we are going, and the knowledge that the God that delivered us has a better plan for us than slavery.** Read Jeremiah 18:1-6 aloud. Say **The Holy Spirit continues to mold the people of God as long as we allow. How are we to keep from being like the world? By being God's people and keeping his commandments.**

Close in prayer.

10 AGAIN

See if you can write out the Ten Commandments using only a key word or phrase. In the right column write an area in your life which the commandment impacts.

<u>Commandment</u>	<u>Life Application</u>
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

Our Story

We were slaves...

Signs and wonders...

He brought us out...

Observe these for our good...