



Introduction

What's the point of rules?

As we start looking at the 10 commandments let's ask the question, 'what's the point of rules?'

Just like we have rules and laws as a guideline for society to work well, Christians and other faith groups all have rules and guidelines about how they should live well too. Based on ideas about what is right and wrong, many of the rules and laws in the western world were originally based on the rules that God gave Moses in the Ten Commandments all those years ago.

Rules actually give us freedom, healthy boundaries and a sense of community. Rules make life & relationships work better and help make things fair for people. So no wonder that God gave the Hebrew people a very useful and important set of rules to follow!

In pairs or 3s discuss:

What do you think would happen if we didn't have rules or laws?

So what are the 10 commandments all about?

The commandments have a very interesting order.

The first three commandments are to do with God.

Firstly about who he says he is and his character, then

about living right with God and not letting anything get in the way of relationship with him, then about how Holy his name is.

The fourth one is interesting as it's a day set apart for God but also for us to get refreshed. It's about how to rest well. The fifth commandment moves further out to family, and making sure these special relationships are good. Then commandments 6-10 are to do with how we treat our 'neighbours' or other people. They're guidelines about how society can work well.

We're going to study the 10 commandments backwards from number 10 all the way up to number 1. We hope that you have enjoyed the video of the 10 commandments and that you enjoy finding out more about how important these special rules are.



Mike and Becky Peacock
Creators of Tales From the Miracle Book



Commandment 10: Do not covet p.1

*“Be happy with your stuff
and never be greedy!”*



This is how the 10th commandment reads in the Bible...

“You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” Exodus 20:17 New International Version

In the Hebrew culture, (when this commandment was given), having lots of animals and servants was a sign of wealth. The word ‘covet’ is a very old fashioned word but it means to want something that’s not yours. It’s longing for, or desiring what we want but can’t have. For example, if a friend has a new playstation, toy or phone, to covet it means being jealous of it and wishing it was yours.

Today, more than ever, we are always taught that we need more! Have a look at TV adverts. Adverts are made to make us buy something and so often they make us feel as though our life isn’t good enough without it!!! That’s just not true!

Greed and wanting things for ourselves CAN be dangerous and can lead to breaking some of the other rules (or commandments) if not handled well. But you know what? Everyone can feel greed and jealousy sometimes. It’s how we handle it that’s important.

The grass is always greener

Have you heard of the phrase the grass is always greener on the other side?

Sometimes we can think that everyone else’s life, or house, or toys, or phones are better than ours. This isn’t a helpful way of thinking and will only lead to unhappiness. It makes us feel less than others: as though life is unfair and others have more.



Did you know that there will always be people who have more stuff than you! And that’s OK! Stuff doesn’t always bring you happiness. But you know what, there are also lots of people who have a lot LESS stuff than you too! But there are many more important things than ‘stuff’ that make us happy.

With a partner DISCUSS things that make us happy that isn’t stuff or possessions.



Commandment 10: Do not covet p.2

So if these rules, or 10 commandments, are there to help us live a better life, then how can we apply this one to our own lives?

Focus on what we have

The opposite of coveting or being greedy is being **thankful** and **content** with what you have. Instead of focusing on what we don't have it's so important to focus on what we do have. There are many special things that **you** have that others might not have. And often they might be things that can't be seen. Things like having a good friend, or feeling loved, or having a good teacher.

Write down 3 things that you are thankful for in your life?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Another way to avoid 'coveting' or being jealous is to be generous. Isn't it a wonderful feeling when someone shares things with you? Why don't you focus on sharing things with others, or sharing your time by helping out in the classroom, playground or at home.

Questions

What does 'to covet' mean?

Why is the 10th commandment important?

IDEA 2: Maybe you could think of ways to be generous to your friends OR even fundraise for people who are less fortunate than you.





Commandment 10: Do not covet p.3

Create a TV Advert that's not about 'things'

In groups of 3 or 4 create an advert that's not about buying things/ possessions. Instead create an advert about being content with what you have. Perhaps you might even want to start the advert saying "Have you ever heard the phrase 'The grass is always greener on the other side'- well that's just not true!" and then in your advert explain why. Get each person to advertise something that the person watching could be thankful about.



Make a poster

Draw and write on the paper below things and people that you're grateful for.



Commandment 9: Don't Tell Lies p.1

"Never tell lies and always speak the truth"

So why is not telling lies in the 10 commandments?
Is it really that important? And if so...why?

Firstly let's look at why we might lie...

...As a cover up

Often we might lie to get out of a tricky situation or to cover up a mistake that we've made. But is this the best option? It might feel better in that moment to not get into trouble, but actually is it the best for us?

In the story of Adam & Eve in the Bible, both Adam and Eve eat the apple from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that God has told them not to eat. And when God questioned them, guess what they did? Adam blamed Eve, and Eve blamed the snake for tempting her. They didn't want to get into trouble. They blamed someone else. But was that the best reaction? We'll look at this later.

...To make things better for us

We all want to do the best we can, don't we? For example, I expect you'd like to get good marks in a test, wouldn't you? So imagine if you had the chance to look at someone else's answers. Would you do it? You might be tempted. But why do you think it's best that you don't cheat? Because it's not true! It's not a true reflection of what you can do. It's making you look better at that test than you actually are. And this has consequences. This might mean that the teacher might then give you work that you can't do, because you don't understand it properly. It's always best to be honest, because then we can get the right help that we need.

...To make other people look worse

Making other people look worse is hurtful. Sharing about people's mistakes - whether they're true or not (and often they're not) - can cause a lot of pain. Often we can do it because we're feeling bad about ourselves, so we find something bad to say about others. Talking about people behind their backs is called gossiping.





Commandment 9: Don't Tell Lies p.2



Admitting our mistakes

Admitting our mistakes and telling the truth isn't always easy. In fact sometimes it can be very hard. No-one wants to get into trouble. But if you can learn to tell the truth it becomes easier and will help you in the long-run. When we admit our mistakes we do something very important called *taking responsibility*. This shows that we are prepared to learn and to grow.

When we realise that we've made a mistake, we can get help which helps us to learn and grow and become even better than we were before!

The power of words

Words have far more power than we give them credit for. You might be able to think of a hurtful thing that someone has said to you. Somehow words like that can stick or get lodged in our minds. They hurt us.

The Bible talks about how powerful the tongue is and the damage it can cause.

We need to be careful how we use our words. Let's make sure that we use our tongues to speak words that help and encourage others and build them up.

Can you think of a time when someone has said **kind** words to you and encouraged you and built you up? What was it and how did it make you feel?

Why do you think the ninth commandment is important?



Commandment 9: Don't Tell Lies p.3

Failure is the key



*** TO SUCCESS ***

EACH Mistake Teaches us something

The tongue is like a fire.
 It starts a fire that influences all of life. We use our tongues to praise our Lord and Father, but then we curse people. And God made them like himself.

The Bible, James 3:6+9
 International Children's Bible

Honesty is the fastest way to prevent a mistake from turning into a failure.
 James Altucher

Honesty is often very hard. The truth is often painful. But the freedom it can bring is worth the trying.
 Fred Rogers

The tongue has the power of life and death
 The Bible, Proverbs 18:21
 New International Version

Honesty is the best policy!

'A lie may take care of the present, but it stores up trouble for the future'

Look at the quotes and write down which one sticks in your mind or challenges you the most and why...



Creative Writing Challenge

Don't tell lies

Write a story about a lie that gets out of control. Who are your characters? Is it based on real life or completely made up? In your story see if you can show how just a little lie can end up causing a big heap of trouble!



TEACHER PAGE

Commandment 9: The Whisper Game

This game is all about **spreading gossip**; how it works and it's consequences.

Ask the class to spread out around the room. Whisper your secret into one person's ear (A secret like "I've got smelly feet" works well). Then tell the class that they have 10 seconds to whisper it to as many other people as they can. Once someone has heard the secret then they're allowed to spread it around too. Off they go!

Once the 10 seconds are up ask the class how many people heard the secret and talk about how quickly things can get passed around. You can include text messages and social media here too, as gossip can go around the world even quicker now!

Now ask...

Before you passed it on did you stop and think whether I would want you to tell my secret to everyone?

Would you want people to spread it around if it was your feet they were talking about?

Have you ever tried to put toothpaste back in a tube? You can't really. Once it's out it's out. It's the same with secrets.

Now that people know my secret it's very hard for people to not know it any more.

Don't pass it on unless you know it's true - and EVEN THEN don't pass it on unless it's helpful.



TIP

Always think about how you would feel if it was you people were talking about before passing it on.



Commandment 8: You shall not steal p.1

“Don’t be a thief or
commit any crime”

This command links a lot with commandment number 10 ‘do not covet’ or ‘*be happy with your stuff and never be greedy*’.

Stealing is about increasing our possessions. As we’ve already talked about in the tenth commandment- it’s far better to be content and thankful for what we have. This attitude will keep us being happy rather than jealous or resentful. Possessions, ‘things’ or ‘stuff’ is never as important as people.



When stealing happens it hurts. It’s not just about the object, but about how others are treated and valued. When people take things that aren’t theirs they have to be paid for somehow. There are consequences when stealing happens and trust breaks down. Consequences might be... making people unhappy or less resources at school or shops closing down.

In the UK we have laws, (national rules), passed by politicians and the prime minister. Our laws make it illegal for people to take something that isn’t theirs.

The police are our law-enforcement agency and they help our society by law enforcement (which means making sure rules are obeyed) to protect people and their property. The police are also there to help us in emergencies.

It’s a police officers job to help us keep those national rules so that society can be a better and more fair place to live.



Why do you think that the policemen and women are important?



Commandment 8: You shall not steal p.2

Faith Link

Many people of different faiths believe that God is a God of justice - which means he doesn't like things that aren't fair and hurt other people. And stealing does that. One of the most important things that Jesus said and is quoted a lot is.....



'In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you'

Matthew 7:12, NIV

Have you heard that phrase? It seems like a good way to live doesn't it?
If we wouldn't like it done to us, then let's not do it to others.

How might you feel if someone stole something of yours?
Circle the emotion words you might feel from the word bank below.

confused excited upset disappointed
delighted let down worried hurt
angry surprised shocked

Why do you think that this eighth commandment is important?



Commandment 8: You shall not steal p.3

Sometimes people think that stealing doesn't really hurt people but it does.
Here's a little story...

Once upon a time there was a little town with no rules. No police. No law enforcement. In this little town there lived a baker called Luigi. He had two children called Phillippe and Elana. Luigi loved making cakes for the people in his town and they in turn loved his cakes.

But one day a young lad decided to take one of Luigi's cakes without paying for it. Luigi didn't notice at first. But the next day the young lad took another one. And then some of his friends took some of Luigi's cakes too without paying.

Then everyone in this little town began questioning why they should pay. There aren't any rules to say they can't. So they too began to take the cakes without paying.

What do you think might be the consequences of stealing from this story?
Circle the suggestions that you think could happen.

- Luigi doesn't get enough money to be able to feed his family
- Luigi's bakery eventually needs to close down
- Luigi's mental health suffers
- Luigi can't find another job that he likes as much
- The lads taking the cakes keep taking more things from other places
- Unemployment
- The lads get a criminal record that affects getting any future jobs
- Luigi's children are affected





Commandment 7:

You shall not commit adultery p.1

“Never cheat and never two-time”

This commandment is about not being faithful. It’s about not breaking trust. Primarily this commandment is for a marriage relationship (being unfaithful in marriage is called adultery) but **we** can learn so much from this commandment too. This commandment teaches us to keep our promises, to be faithful and to be dependable (which means being trustworthy and reliable).



Any good friendship or relationship is built on trust. A good friend is faithful, reliable and trustworthy. Are you a good friend?

A poor friend lets you down, talks about you behind your back, doesn’t keep your trust or confidence and can point out your faults. Although sometimes in friendships we can all get it wrong. But let’s learn from our mistakes and be the best kind of friends we can.

Excercise

In the box below are a list of character description words that either help or hinder (get in the way of) friendships. Choose a word from the box to complete the sentences.

Because she kept my secret I know she is _____

Sometimes he turns up but sometimes he doesn’t. He’s often _____

She talked badly about me behind my back. She has been _____

I can rely on my friend to always be there for me. They are _____

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------|------------|------------|
| faithful | trustworthy | unreliable | unfaithful |
| reliable | inconsistent | dependable | |



Commandment 7: You shall not commit adultery p.2

Think of a person you know who is faithful, reliable and dependable. It could be a good friend or a parent or teacher. Write down how they have demonstrated or shown that they are reliable and dependable. What did they do or not do?

Below is a wordbank of character qualities. Cross out the ones that aren't good.

honest	kind	thoughtful	unfaithful	trustworthy
untrustworthy	fake	helpful	considerate	unkind
encouraging	reliable	dishonest	unreliable	
deceitful	lying	truthful	faithful	
dependable	consistent	misleading		

Now think about which ones you already think you show in your character and then which ones you'd like to grow in. Then write down ideas of how you could acheive that.

I think I show that I am _____

I would like to be more _____

I could do that by _____



Commandment 6: You shall not murder p.1 faith link

Christians believe that life is from God and that it is a gift from God. Like many other faiths, Christians believe that it's not an accident that each one of us was born and that we were very carefully chosen- even before the beginning of time.

For he chose us in him before the creation of the world
Ephesians 1:4

Humans (homo sapiens) are not simply the top of the animal tree, we are very unique! The Bible states that we alone, out of all God's creations, are made in God's image.

So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.
Genesis 1:27

Whatever you believe, we can all agree that people are special! We are each very valuable. Human life is very valuable. Here's a verse from the Bible- one of the songs or poems called a psalm...



'You made my whole being.
You formed me in my mother's body.
I praise you because you made me in an
amazing and wonderful way.
What you have done is wonderful.
I know this very well.
You saw my bones being formed
as I took shape in my mother's body.
When I was put together there,
you saw my body as it was formed.
All the days planned for me were written
in your book before I was one day old.'
Psalm 139:14-16 International Children's Bible

According to these three quotes above from the Bible, why is life so important to God?



Commandment 6: You shall not murder p.2

You're Special

The Bible tells us that each person has been specially made by God. Did you know there is only one of you? You are unique! There has never ever been anyone like you on earth before - and there never will be again... You're one-of-a-kind! And that make you very, very special indeed!

Class Survey

Write your name in the dark box next to NAME and write down your answers in the first column below your name. What's your favourite colour? etc. Ask people on your table (up to 5 others) what their answers are by putting their name next to yours and filling in their answers in their column. How many of you had answers in common- how many were completely different. Even if you have similarities, I bet no-one has one completely the same because you are one of a kind!!

NAME						
Favourite Colour						
Any pets? If so, what?						
Older brother/sister?						
Younger brother/sister?						
Favourite activity						
Favourite food						

FUN FACT: When you were being formed in your mum's tummy your fingers rubbed against the side of the womb. These tiny forces pushed your skin as it grew and formed little ridges. That is how you have a unique fingerprint unlike anyone else's!!





Commandment 6: You shall not murder p.3

Many years after these 10 commandments were given, Jesus, when teaching on this commandment, makes a link between anger and murder in Matthew 5:21-22

“You have heard that it was said to our people long ago, ‘You must not murder anyone. Anyone who murders another will be judged.’ But I tell you, if you are angry with your brother, you will be judged.”

Matthew 5:21-22, New International Version, The Bible



Anger

What are some of the dangers of reacting in anger?

How can you control your anger better?

Why do you think Jesus makes a link between anger and murder?

Let's work on seeing the value in everyone even if they see things differently to us.

Why do you think this 6th commandment 'Do not murder' is so very important ?



'Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry'

James 1:19, NIV, The Bible



Commandment 5: Honour your parents p.1

“Always listen to your Mum and Dad”

**“Honour your father and your mother.
Then you will live a long time in the land.”**



Families come in all shapes and sizes these days. Some people might have parents that live in 2 different places. Some might be brought up by grand-parents. Some might be adopted into a new family. Some might have one parent, some might have two. Whatever shape and size your family is, we are shaped and made for relationships. Our parents or carers are some of the most important relationships that we'll ever have! So no wonder this commandment- to honour our parents- is in the Ten Commandments.

To honour means to hold in high respect or great esteem. For some of us respecting our parents or carers is easy to do, but for some of us it's more difficult.

When it comes to parents- they're the only ones we ever get! We need to accept them - warts & all - they're still learning. No-one is naturally born a good parent. Parenting skills need to be learned. Parents aren't perfect! (But if you don't feel safe at home you should always tell a teacher.)

Do you think a good parent or carer should never tell you off? Think again! Telling you off is a way of helping you to learn how to be a better person. For example if you forgot to do your homework your parents (or teacher) might tell you off. Imagine if they didn't and you kept doing it... Not only would you fall behind in class but also you may get into a habit of becoming unreliable in the future. They're teaching you to be dependable. It's because they want you to grow up happy and healthy and to have a good future.

Your parents or carers are often the people who not only know you best, but the people who love you best too. No wonder it's important that we listen to and respect the people who love us and have our best interests at heart. They often have many good things to teach us to help us live well and flourish!



**“Listen to your father, who gave you life.
And do not forget your mother when she is old.”**

Proverbs 23:22



Commandment 5:

Honour your parents p.2

Have you ever put yourself in your parents or carers shoes?
Have you imagined what it might be like for them juggling all the things they juggle and being responsible for the home?



Have a think...

How could you appreciate all the jobs your parents or carers do for you? Can you name some of them here...

Think of how you could help make your parents job easier at home. Are there any ways that you could help out? Write down an idea or two of what you'd like to do...

If you're discouraged about your family, are there any things you could do to make things better? (If you can't talk to your parents about it perhaps you could talk to a teacher...)

How could you respect your parent or carer more?

Perhaps there are ways you could encourage your parents with words? Have a think and write down something that you'd like to say to encourage your parent or carer...



Commandment 4: Keep the Sabbath as a holy day p.1

The 6 commandments that we have looked at so far (commandments 5-10) are to do with a healthy society but now, in these first four commandments, we start looking at God and our relationship to God.

“Remember to keep the Sabbath as a holy day. You may work and get everything done during six days each week. But the seventh day is a day of rest to honour the Lord your God. On that day no one may do any work: not you, your son or daughter, or your men or women slaves. Neither your animals nor the foreigners living in your cities may work. The reason is that in six days the Lord made everything. He made the sky, earth, sea and everything in them. And on the seventh day, he rested. So the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Exodus 20: 9-11 International Children's Bible



What do you think about when you think of rest? Rest can mean different things to different people. For some people rest means sleep. For others it means chilling out and relaxing. And for others it means doing things that you love doing.

Whatever you think about it we can all agree that rest is important. If you don't get enough rest then we can become very tired and stressed. Imagine if you did homework all the time and didn't stop to enjoy your friends or even to celebrate your birthday!

Why is rest so important

Life is busier now than it's ever been! And it's likely to keep getting busier. Rest restores our energy and recharges our batteries! Rest is good for our mental health. It reduces stress and improves our mood! It's even been proven to increase concentration and memory.

When we're rested we make better decisions and we're kinder to people. (That's why getting enough sleep each night is so good for you!)

To put it simply- when we're rested we work better!

Does this mean that we become lazy? No of course not! It means that to be healthy it's good to have a day to rest and relax and recharge our batteries.

Christians and Jews often call this day the Sabbath.

Did you know
that no shops were allowed to open on a Sunday until about 25 years ago- in 1994. Sundays were a lot less busy then!





Commandment 4: Keep the Sabbath as a holy day p.2

In the Bible, Christians believe that God himself talks about the idea of rest right at the beginning of time. In Genesis, (the first book of the Bible about how the world began), God models a healthy weekly rhythm when he creates the world in six days then on the seventh day he rests. And if God takes time to rest then maybe we should too!



‘By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.’

Genesis 2:2-3 3. The Name of the Lord

A day set aside for rest and worship

The Bible suggests that rest must be very important to God if he put this commandment as number 4! That’s very high up! As well as being important for us to rest and relax it’s also a day for many people to connect with God.

The ten commandments teach us that the Sabbath is a holy day.

So what does that look like? Well, different people of faith do different things.

In Christianity, many Christians go to church on that day. They meet with other believers to encourage one another and they worship God together by singing, listening to teaching on faith, and praying. Perhaps Christians might read their Bible to learn more about God. Or they might share a nice meal with other believers or friends or extended family. It’s a day where Christians are more mindful of God and try to connect with him. (Although many Christians try to connect with God every day!) Christians believe that God wants people to be refreshed in every way: their minds, their spirit and their bodies by keeping the Sabbath.

The Sabbath is a holy day to be set apart and kept special. A day to connect with God and a day to look forward to!





Commandment 4: Keep the Sabbath as a holy day p.3

So what about you?

Think about how you recharge your batteries.

What do you like to do to rest and relax?

Maybe you like reading a book or playing a sport or riding your bike or having a relaxing bath or connecting with nature. Maybe it's seeing other members of your family and connecting with them.

Write down what you like to do to relax.



If you're a Christian or have another faith, maybe this is the day that you spend some time reading your holy book or in worship or prayer. Maybe you meet up with other believers and encourage one another. If you have been brought up with a faith background, perhaps you could talk to one another about your experience of your place of worship or write it here if you prefer...

Write down what you could do to make a rest day special and different from all the others!

Why do you think this fourth commandment is important?



Commandment 3: Don't misuse Gods name p.1

“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.”

Exodus 20:7 New International version

In the ten commandments video that you watched, one of the Hebrews hammers his thumb and cries out God's name as a curse (almost like a rude word or a swear word).

Saying Gods name like this might not seem like a big deal to many of us but, according to the Bible, it's the third most important command that God wants to give us. Many Christians think because it's so high up it must be very important to God. Today we hear people using not only God's name but Jesus' name too when something surprises or shocks them. Using God's or Jesus' name like this is called blasphemy.

It's almost become normal to hear someone on TV, or even in the playground, blaspheme.

So why is it such a big deal to God?

Well, when we respect someone we would never use their name as a rude word. Their name is precious to us. Imagine if someone used your mum's name as a rude word. That's not very nice. Your mum would be upset and so would you because you love her. You're upset on her behalf. This is how Christians -and people of other faiths- feel about God's name being used like that. They feel sad that the person they love is being connected to something bad.

The closer to the top of the ten commandments we go, the closer to being about God and who the Bible says he is that the commandments get. The Bible teaches Christians that God is holy. And that means his name is holy too. In Christian's most famous prayer of all- the Lord's prayer, taught by Jesus to his followers, it contains the phrase-

“Hallowed be your name” Or “Holy be your name”

If we disrespect Gods name by using it as a curse word (blaspheming) it shows that we aren't respecting him or thinking of him as holy. Maybe, if you don't have a faith -or don't want to have a faith, that doesn't bother you. But be aware it can bother people of faith and, according to the Bible, it bothers God himself.





Commandment 3: Don't misuse Gods name p.2

“The name of the Lord is to be blessed”

The meaning of names

When your parents or carers named you they probably thought very carefully about what you would be called. They may have always liked the name because it sounded nice, or because they knew someone of the same name who inspired them. Maybe your name is a family name or maybe your parents liked it's meaning.

What does your name mean? Do you know? If you do write it here. If you don't, why not find out...?

My name means _____

Do your parents or carers have a nickname for you? Or do you have an embarrassing or funny middle name? You don't have to write it here but you can if you like!!

There's a story in the Bible about when Jesus re-names one of his disciples Simon. He calls him 'Peter' which means 'rock'



'Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church'

Matthew 16:17&18 International Children's Bible

What we call people shows how we think of them. Jesus thought highly of Peter and was saying that him being a rock was so very important in 'building' his church.

Why do you think Jesus called Peter 'rock'? What do you think he meant by it?

Why do you think the 3rd commandment 'Don't misuse God's name' is important?



Commandment 2: You shall not make yourself an idol p.1

“You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God...”

Exodus 20:4-5 New International version

Idolatory or to idolize means ‘to admire, love greatly or excessively’ a person or a thing.

In Christianity, idolatry is where something- anything- takes first place and removes God away from his central position.

The first part of the Bible verse above says ‘you shall have no other gods before me’. So what does this verse mean by gods?

In Christianity, gods are whatever fills our minds a lot. They are what we lie in bed thinking about and what we spend our time and money on. They are things that keep God from being our number 1.



Through this second commandment God is saying here that he wants first place in his peoples lives, and that nothing else should come before him. At the end of the Bible verse above it says ‘I am jealous God’. That sounds a bit strange doesn’t it? After all, isn’t jealousy a bad thing and isn’t God meant to be perfect? The Bible teaches that God is jealous because he loves us so much and wants to be really close to his people. Just as we’re his number 1- he wants to be ours.

So what keeps God from being our number one?

According to the Bible the only thing that should be truly worshipped is God himself and that it’s actually not good for us if anything else creeps into top place.

But a lot of the things that we might think about most might be really good... things like holidays, family, a Tiktok personality, another person, clothes, sports, music, school-work.... The Bible actually teaches that the most dangerous idols are actually good things that have taken first position in peoples lives.



But this commandment- to not make idols- isn’t here to make Christians feel bad. Of course not! It’s there to help them have their priorities in the right place. After all, Christians believe that God is mighty and powerful and deserves the greatest respect.



Commandment 2: You shall not make yourself an idol p.2

Have a look at these quotes. Which ones stand out to you?

A

"THERE IS A GOD SHAPED VACUUM IN THE HEART OF EVERY MAN WHICH CANNOT BE FILLED BY ANY CREATED THING, BUT ONLY BY GOD, THE CREATOR, MADE KNOWN THROUGH JESUS."

BLAISE PASCAL

B

There is perhaps nothing worse than reaching the top of the ladder and discovering that you're on the wrong wall.

— Joseph Campbell —

C

MONEY CANNOT FILL
AN EMPTY SOUL

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

D

"Fame and fortune,
how empty they can be"

Elvis Presley

E

There is a God-shaped vacuum in every man that
only Christ can fill

Saint Augustine

F

TRYING TO FILL THE GOD-SIZED HOLE IN OUR HEARTS WITH THINGS OTHER THAN GOD IS LIKE TRYING TO FILL THE GRAND CANYON WITH MARBLES.

- PETER KREEFT

CHRISTIANITY TODAY

G

Jesus said

"I have come to give you everything in abundance,
more than you expect—life in its fullness
until you overflow!"

JOHN 10:10, The Bible, The Passion Version

H

God's wisdom and knowledge
have no end!

No one can explain the
things God decides.

No one can understand
God's ways.

Romans 11:33 International Children's
Bible

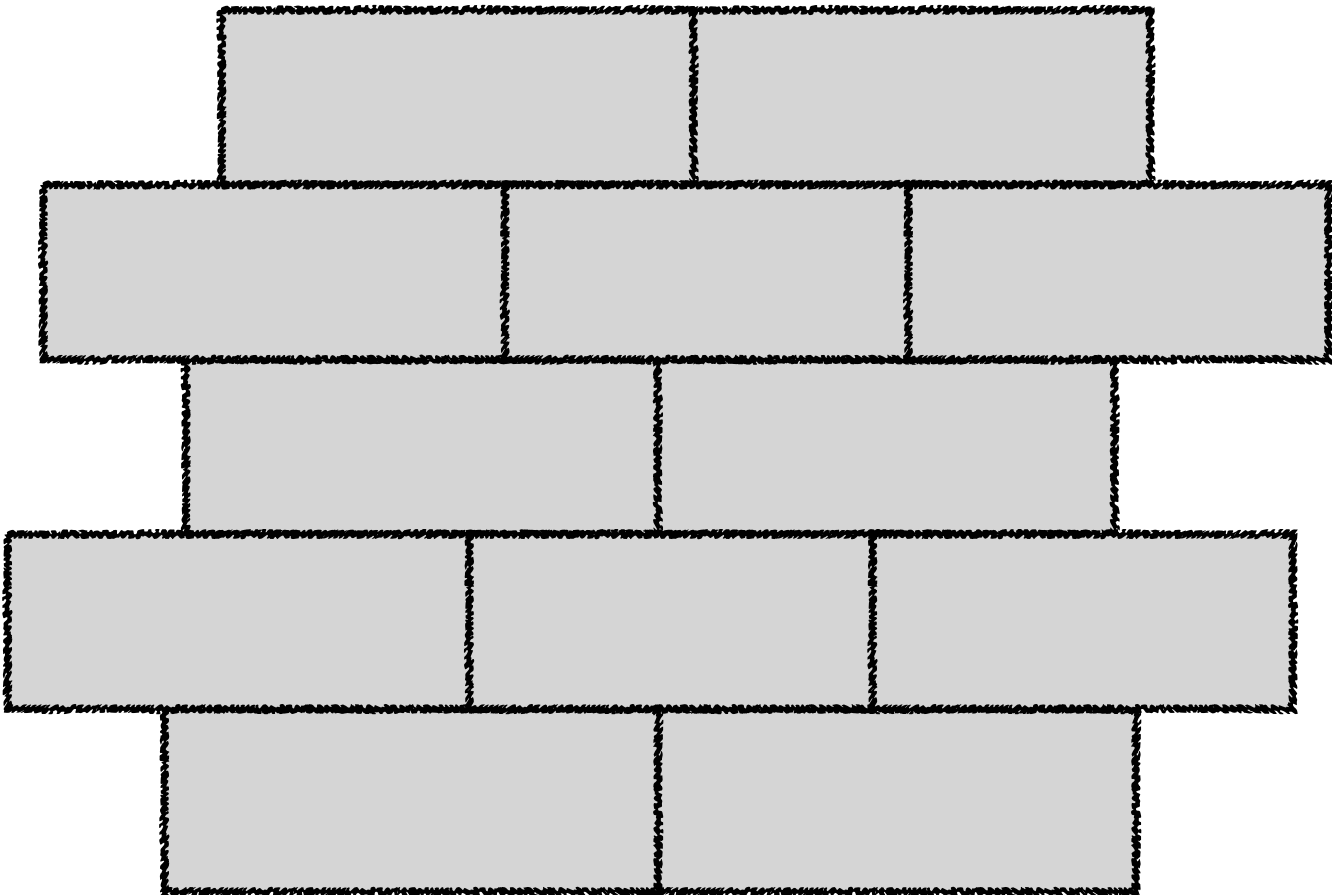
Which quote stood out to you most and why? _____



Commandment 2: You shall not make yourself an idol p.3

In the ten commandments God asks his people not to put anything before him. We all build our lives with different priorities. For example some people might choose sports as a priority but others might not. Some of you may be people of faith and may choose to put God in the most important place.

Below are some bricks for you to fill in with your own priorities for your life. In the box beneath are some examples but use your own ideas too. What's most important to you? Choose carefully what to build your life on!



My hobby	Getting what I want	Getting a good job	Faith	
Being important	Friendship	Caring for others	Money	God
Looking good	My Family	Education	Being healthy	
Being talented	Being happy	Respecting people	Helping out	
	Playing sport	Being famous	Having fun	



Commandment 1:

I am the Lord your God p.1

“I am the Lord your God.
I brought you out of the land of Egypt where you were slaves.
You must not have any other gods except me.”

No Other Gods

We've talked in the second commandment about things that might get in the way of God. This first commandment is all about God himself!

I am the Lord

This first commandment introduces us to God. In this commandment God shares his name with Moses and the people of Israel - showing he's wanting relationship with them. He's wanting them to know his name. He's introducing himself! And look what comes next...



‘Moses said to God, “When I go to the Israelites, I will say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors sent me to you.’
What if the people say, ‘What is his name?’ What should I tell them?”
Then God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.
When you go to the people of Israel, tell them, ‘I AM sent me to you.’”
God also said to Moses, “This is what you should tell the people:
‘The Lord is the God of your ancestors. He is the God of Abraham,
the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. And he sent me to you.’
This will always be my name. That is how people from now on will know me.
Exodus 3:13-15, International Children's Bible

God's name is a hard thing to understand! In fact his name in Judaism is so sacred (or holy) that his name is not to be spoken. The name that Christians call God 'The Lord', is an English translation of the Hebrew word YHWH (pronounced Yahweh). This word actually means 'the one who brings into being all that is.' What an incredible thing to say! He is life and creates all life! He is sometimes known to Christians as 'the great I am'. 'I am' is in the present tense and means he is, he has always been and always will be. The last book of the Bible describes God in a similar way: 'I am the beginning and the end,' says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.'

Revelation 1:8, New International Version

Questions

1. What does God say his name is? _____
2. In Judaism, why is Gods name not spoken? _____
3. What is the Hebrew word for God? _____
4. What do Christians often call God? _____



Commandment 1:

I am the Lord your God p.2

In this first part of the first commandment God is introducing himself as...

Eternal

The idea that God has always been and always will be is pretty hard to think about! Imagine a rope that has no beginning and no end it just keeps going. It's hard to picture isn't it? The word to describe that is **eternal** or **infinite** (lasting forever without end). This picture is the symbol for infinity as it goes round and round without a beginning or an end.



So **firstly**, through this commandment we learn that God is introducing himself as someone reliable and constant, someone **eternal**, someone who was, who is and who is to come....

Rescuer

Secondly, God introduces himself by saying 'I brought you out of the land of Egypt where you were slaves'

God is revealing his character here as a **rescuer**- he was letting the Hebrew people know that it was Him who brought them out of slavery; that he saves and rescues and that he will continue to do so. Later in the Bible, Jesus, God's own son is born on earth and is named Jesus. The name Jesus means 'God saves'.

A God of Relationship

Thirdly, when God introduces himself in the Bible passage as 'the God of your ancestors' he is showing that he knows this generation and past generations. He knows their families. He's a God who knows his people. He's not aloof or far off but he's a **God of relationship**. He's showing himself as one who loves and cares for his people.

Questions

1. What does eternal mean? _____

2. Can you try to draw the infinity symbol in the box?



3. What was God showing the Hebrew people when he said 'I brought you out of the land of Egypt where you were slaves'?

4. What does the name Jesus mean? _____

5. What was God showing the Hebrew people when he called himself 'the God of your ancestors'?



10 Commandment wordsearch

Find words from the box below. (There are no diagonal words).



Commandment
relationship
murder
jealous
greedy

God
Idol
lying
thankful

Moses
blasphemy
unfaithful
rescuer

eternal
sabbath
stealing
family



The Ten Commandments

Written on the tablets are the rhyming version of the 10 commandments from the video in their correct order. See if you can match the real Bible version of the commandment from the box below by adding the correct letter to the circles.



I am the Lord and
there is no other



Don't bow down and
worship any other



The name of the Lord
is to be blessed



Sundays are always a
day of rest



Always listen to your
mum and dad



Murder and killing-
well that's really, really
bad



Never cheat and never
two-time



Don't be a thief or
commit any crime



Never tell lies and
always speak the truth



Be happy with your
stuff and never be
greedy

- A. Honour your father and your mother
- B. Remember to keep the Sabbath as a holy day
- C. You must not use the name of the Lord your God thoughtlessly
- D. You must not be guilty of adultery (unfaithful)
- E. You must not worship or serve any idol
- F. You must not steal
- G. I am the Lord your God.
- H. You must not tell lies about your neighbour
- I. You must not want to take anything that belongs to your neighbour
- J. You must not murder anyone

Exodus 20: 2-17, International Children's Bible



10 Commandment Rap!

1. He is the Lord and there is no other
2. So don't bow down and worship any other
3. The name of the Lord is to be blessed
4. And Sundays are always a day of rest
5. Always listen to your Mum and Dad
6. Murder and killing- (well that's really, really bad)
7. Never cheat and never two-time
8. Don't be a thief or commit any crime
9. Never tell lies and always speak the truth
10. And finally and lastly (but by no means leastly),
be happy with your stuff and never be greedy!

[Http://talesfromthemiraclebook.co.uk](http://talesfromthemiraclebook.co.uk)

Video on <https://vimeo.com/640651732>

