

The 10 Commandments

Session #5:

Respect

OVERVIEW

Sunday Message Series: The 10 Commandments: Set Free to Live Free, Love God, Love Others

Resource: *The Ten Commandments: Living God's Way* by Mary Evans (CWR 2011)

Homework: Participants are asked to read the Scripture passages ahead of time in order to allow the Holy Spirit to inspire the understanding of their meaning.

Items needed for this session: Handouts of Session #5.

A way to show the videos (laptop, screen, etc.)

LOVE: ENGAGE GOD AND OTHERS (10 minutes)

WELCOME

Prayer: Host prays asking for the Holy Spirit to lead the session, to inspire the understanding of the Scripture read, and to help participants apply the session to their daily discipleship.

Say the week's memory verse together:

Grow Group Series: 9 Sessions to this Grow Group cycle. Originally planned to finish by May 24.

ICE BREAKER.

Create an email to all your group's participants. In the email, list each person in the group by name. By each person's name, write down one thing about that person (including yourself) that you think is particularly worthy of respect. Share your email with your group participants.

SERVE: ENGAGE THE WIDER COMMUNITY (10 minutes)

SERVICE PROJECT (*see separate sheet*)

If the group has not yet made plans, decide on a service project idea and date.

GROW: ENGAGE GOD'S WORD (50 minutes)

INTRODUCTION (*By volunteer reader.*)

In this study the aim is to consider not just what Sabbath-keeping and parent-honoring mean in terms of behavior, but also in terms of motivation and consequences. We want to explore exactly what is meant by observing the Sabbath day. It's worth pointing out that the Early Church deliberately chose Sunday as their day to meet together for worship, knowing very well that this was not the appointed Sabbath day in the Jewish tradition. It started with the very first Christians soon after the first Easter, who gathered together every Sunday morning to proclaim and celebrate that Jesus was alive. Ever since then, the church has met on Sunday morning because each week we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Just as Jesus replaced the Old Law, so does the new Sabbath of Sunday replace the old Sabbath of Saturday.

The concept of rest is very important in the Bible, and we need to consider just how important it is to us today. Are rest and leisure the same thing? Our age, upbringing, and culture can influence all of this very greatly. Most of us don't take this commitment very seriously, at great peril to our spiritual and overall lives! We also need to beware if our leisure activities (on line activities?) are becoming controlling in our days and eating up our Sabbath time.

The Fifth Commandment is the first of the six commandments that deal with respect for other people. Age, experiences, and culture lead to widely different understandings of what respect look like. What is crucial, however, is the proper consideration of how it affects our behavior. As we think about this lesson today, be careful not to think about how other people do or do not behave in inappropriate ways, but rather consider how you yourself do or do not behave in inappropriate ways.

Sometimes parents and children use this commandment as a justification for making unreasonable demands or as an excuse for avoiding other responsibilities. Notice, particularly, that this commandment is addressed to children, and not parents! It was never intended to be used as a weapon to create guilt.

CONTEXT:

Video: Sabbath: #BibleProject #Sabbath #7thDayRest

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFTLvKB3JLM&v=5:26> (5:26 minutes)

Discuss: What struck you about the video describing God's plan of "ultimate rest?"

How do you see Easter as connected to the rest Jesus offers?

How are you doing in living in a cadence of Sabbath, taking a whole day each week to live as if the future rest has come while living now in the wilderness, chaos and disorder?

OPENING OUR EYES

Read: Exodus 20:1-12

Read: Deuteronomy 5:12-16

Read: Genesis 2:23-24

Volunteer reader:

"Respect!" has become a key idea among young people of late, particularly among those who see themselves as in some way disenfranchised. The point they are making seems to be that they deserve the respect of others, sometimes suggesting that if this is not given they will take action to force it. The "Respect Media Campaign" developed this idea without the negative connotations, but it's still focused on the respect from rather than the respect for the people involved.

The Bible, using various terms, also talks a lot about respect: both for institutions like the Sabbath and for people like parents. It agrees with young people's concept that people do deserve respect. However, the emphasis is very different: the stress is not on the respect you should demand from others but on the respect you yourselves should give to others!

A. Respect the Sabbath.

Exodus and Deuteronomy use different reasons to back up this command. Exodus 20 points to how God rested on the seventh day of creation. Deuteronomy 5 points to Israel's deliverance from Egypt and the fact that they were all once slaves. By Jesus' day, the emphasis on the Sabbath became more focused on rituals. Jesus, for example, attended the synagogue on Sabbath (Luke 4:16). The

10 Words themselves, however, focus on the Sabbath as a time of relaxation and leisure. For one day in every seven work should be put aside. The creation argument tells us that this was part of God's plan from the very beginning, and it was intended for all people, not just for Israel. Human beings have been created with the need for rest, and God Himself stands as an example to us. To ignore this command is to disrespect God, not to mention risking burnout! To argue that if we don't work seven days this week then the crops might not get gathered in, or the essay might not get written, or the contract not completed, usually is saying that I have taken too much on or that I have not used my time properly. But it also says that I don't trust God.

In addition we have a responsibility to respect the right of others to rest. We must make sure that all those for whom we have responsibilities—whether family or employees, humans or working animals—that they are given and take up at that right.

B. Respect Your Parents.

As Paul points out in Ephesians 6:2, this is the first commandment with a promise. Deuteronomy, with its focus on what it means to live in the God-provided land as God's covenant people, expands on both the instruction and the promise. For a society to function in the best way possible, good family life is crucial. Children giving respect to parents is a key element of this, and a society where this happens is likely to be long-lasting. Genesis 2:24 makes it clear that the honor to be given to parents is not without limits—and responsibilities to a spouse takes priority—but this does not remove, even for an adult child, the need to respect parents. Paul, speaking specifically of children and adults, uses the word “obey.” Perhaps significantly, the Old Testament does not use this word in this context. Even so, obedience to parents may often be relevant and required in order to show respect. Note that the respect is to be given equally to both father and mother. Where the Bible speaks of parental responsibilities and rights, it very rarely makes a distinction between the two.

INTO THE BIBLE

Read: Nehemiah 13:15-22

Read: Matthew 15:1-9

Read: Mark 2:27-3:6

Discuss the following as time allows:

1. Is observing/remembering the Sabbath the same as “keeping Sunday special?” Discuss the reasons behind your answer.

2. “Working all the hours that God sends” is often seen as a sign of Christian commitment rather than the sin the Bible presents it to be. Why do you think this is?

3. Talk about the things—other than your paid work—that you enjoy doing. Which of these do you think is or is not appropriate to do on the Sabbath day? What difference would it make if someone has retired from their paid work? Should they still have a Sabbath day?

4. The New testament is insistent that meeting together as Christians for worship and fellowship is vital. Is it the same thing as keeping the Sabbath?

5. Will the way to respect one's parents (Leviticus 19:3) be different in different cultures? What do you think it means in your culture?

6. How might honoring parents be different for children who have or have not come of age?
7. Is honoring elderly parents the same thing as looking after them? What does it mean to honor or respect those who are suffering from dementia?
8. Do parents ever make unreasonable demands on their children based on this commandment? How could or should the church advise both parties if they see this happening?

SEEING JESUS IN THE SCRIPTURES

Volunteer reader: Jesus again provides us an example for both of these Commandments. In Luke 14:16-51 and John 19:25-27 He attends the synagogue on the Sabbath and as honoring His parents. However He did not see the expectations of His culture as controlling His behavior on the Sabbath (Luke 13:10-17, Mark 2:23-27 and John 7:22-23. Respect for His parents did not prevent Him from acting on His own initiative, even at the age of 12!

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Volunteer reader: The application of either or both of these Commandments will be very different depending on your age and stage of life. If the Sunday service is an oasis for you and the whole day is calm and relaxed, then that could be a Sabbath. On the other hand, if we are very involved in church work and Sunday is spent in a constant rush, then we should almost certainly take another day. Do we make sure that our children have a special day, perhaps a day away from the computer? If we have someone who runs our household, do we make sure that they have a day away from the cooking and washing up? Those with parents might like to make a special commandant this week to do something special to honor them. For those who have no living parents, the Fifth Commandment might seem irrelevant, but it is still worth considering how well you are respecting their memory, especially to others. All of us need to ask if we give proper respect to all those in our lives who have cared for us or to whom we owe a duty of care.

Discuss: How will you apply what you learned in this lesson to your life this next week?

LOVE: ENGAGE GOD (5 minutes)

LOOKING AHEAD:

Invite someone new to come next week! I will invite:

Do we need to call/text/email and remind one another? I will remind:

Homework: Read Exodus 20:1-15, 21:12-27. (Also, if you wish to read ahead, Genesis 9:1-6, 2 Samuel 12:1-10, Proverbs 30:7-9, and John 8:1-11.)

CLOSING PRAYER:

During our church's "Jubilee" year (our 50th Anniversary) in 2017, we prayed a prayer for Lent called a Cross Prayer: C.R.O.S.S. Close with this prayer:

Come: Pour out your Holy Spirit on your church.

Renew: Awaken in us a hunger for more of You.

Oneness: Bind us together to the work God is calling us to.

Stretch. Push us into boldness.

Send: Give us your heart for the lost. Amen.