

# God's Ten Words: Applying the Ten Commandments

Scripture taken from the NIV

Day	Passage	Verse reference	Questions
1	<p>Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, ‘This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: “You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.’</p>	Exodus 19:3–6	The Ten Commandments are delivered in a context. What has the Lord done prior to giving the 10 commandments? How does that affect the way we read them? God rescued his people first, what do we learn about how God feels about his people?
2	<p>Moses said to the LORD, ‘The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, “Put limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy.”’</p> <p>The LORD replied, ‘Go down and bring Aaron up with you. But the priests and the people must not force their way through to come up to the LORD, or he will break out against them.’</p> <p>So Moses went down to the people and told them. And God spoke all these words:</p> <p>‘I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ‘You shall have no other gods before me.’</p>	Exodus 19:23–20:3	In the context of rescue, God delivers his first Word. What is the warning here for God’s people? What does this teach us about God? What are the things we treat as ‘other gods’ in our lives?
3	<p>Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.</p>	Deuteronomy 6:4-7	How is the first commandment applied in Deuteronomy 6? What is the appropriate response to the one God? How do you help your children know the one God?

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4	<p>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"</p> <p>Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."</p>	John 14:5-7	<p>What does the New Testament add to our understanding of the one God? What does Jesus reveal about the one God? How should you respond to Jesus?</p>
5	<p>'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, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.</p>	Exodus 20:4-6	<p>Why is God against graven images? Why is idolatry a temptation? What do we learn about God from the second commandment? What are the idols of our age? What do you need to turn from?</p>
6	<p>For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.</p> <p>For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.</p>	Romans 1:20-23	<p>Paul critiques idolatry in Romans 1. What qualities of God does the idolater ignore? How is foolishness expressed here? What are you tempted to make a 'god' in your life? How is the second commandment applied here?</p>
7	<p>"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...</p> <p>No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."</p>	Matthew 6:19-24	<p>In our culture money is a false 'god.' What is Jesus teaching here about the love of money? How does Jesus apply the second commandment to money? How are you tempted to idolise money?</p>

# God's Ten Words: Applying the Ten Commandments (continued)

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8	<p>'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</p> <p>"Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.'"</p>	<p>Exodus 20:7</p> <p>Ezekiel 36:22-23</p>	<p>What does the third commandment address? Ezekiel rebukes his people for dishonouring the name of the Lord. What is the impact on the surrounding nations? How does Ezekiel 36 apply the third commandment? How do you dishonour the name of the Lord by your words and deeds?</p>
9	<p>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!</p> <p>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.</p>	<p>Philippians 2:8-11</p>	<p>How does Philippians 2 apply the third commandment? How do we honour the name of the Lord? What does honouring Jesus look like in your life?</p>
10	<p>'Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.'</p>	<p>Exodus 20:8-11</p>	<p>Where does the idea of Sabbath come from according to the fourth commandment? What is the purpose of Sabbath? How should a Christian practise the Sabbath? How do you practise the idea of Sabbath?</p>
11	<p>One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. Some of the Pharisees asked, "Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"</p> <p>Jesus answered them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions."</p> <p>Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."</p>	<p>Mark 2:23-28</p>	<p>What is Jesus's relationship to the idea of Sabbath? What had the Pharisees got wrong about the Sabbath? What does it mean Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath? How does Jesus apply the fourth commandment? How do we escape the error of the Pharisees?</p>

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12	<p>And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world. For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "And on the seventh day God rested from all his work." And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest."</p> <p>It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience.</p>	Hebrews 4:3b-6	How is the seventh day of creation connected with the idea of Sabbath? What do we learn here? What does Sabbath point to? How do we enter the rest of the seventh day?
13	<p>'Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.' Exodus 20:12</p> <p>Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding. The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him. May your father and mother be glad; may she who gave you birth rejoice!</p>	Exodus 20:12 Proverbs 23:22-25	What does the fifth commandment teach us about how God views family relationships? How do the Proverbs apply the fifth commandment? How can you honour your parents?
14	<p>Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honour your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."</p> <p>Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.</p>	Ephesians 6:1-4	How does Ephesians 6 apply the fifth commandment? How can you honour your parents? What does this show us about how God views family relationships?
15	<p>'You shall not murder' Exodus 20:13</p> <p>"But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.</p>	Exodus 20:13 Genesis 9:4-6	Why is God against murder? How does Genesis 9 add to our understanding of murder? Where does the motive for murder rise from?
16	<p>"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."</p>	Matthew 5:21-22	Jesus applies the sixth commandment further? What does he add to idea of murder? How does this convict you? Are there attitudes towards people you need to deal with?

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Day	Passage	Verse reference	Questions
17	This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life in him.	1 John 3:11-15	How does John apply the sixth commandment? What do we learn about murder from the incident of Cain and Abel? What is the relationship between hate and murder? How does this confront you?
18	'You shall not commit adultery' Exodus 20:14  Jesus replied. "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate." When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery."	Exodus 20:14  Mark 10:6-12	Why is God against adultery? What does Jesus teach us about marriage? How does Jesus apply the seventh commandment? How does this challenge you?
19	"You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.	Matthew 5:27-30	How does Jesus apply the seventh commandment? How does he raise the bar on adultery? How can you flee adultery in your body and adultery in your mind?
20	Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your bodies.	1 Corinthians 6:18-20	How does Paul apply the seventh commandment? Why is sexual sin inappropriate for a Christian? What does this teach us about our bodies? How are you challenged here?



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21	<p>For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life, keeping you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife. Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes, for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys upon your very life. Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?</p>	Proverbs 6:23–27	<p>How does the book of Proverbs apply the seventh commandment? What do we learn about the seduction of adultery? How can we avoid adultery? How do these words challenge you?</p>
22	<p>‘You shall not steal.’ Exodus 20:15</p> <p>You, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the law, do you dishonour God by breaking the law? As it is written: ‘God’s name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.’</p>	<p>Exodus 20:15</p> <p>Romans 2:21–24</p>	<p>Why is God against stealing? Australians are infamous software, movie, and music pirates. What is this commandment teaching us about illegal downloading? How does this challenge you? What do you need to delete?</p>
23	<p>‘I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,’ says the LORD Almighty. ‘But you ask, “How are we to return?” ‘Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. ‘But you ask, “How are we robbing you?” ‘In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.</p>	Malachi 3:6–10	<p>The people of Malachi’s day were charged with robbing God? How do they do it? How might you be tempted to rob God? How does Malachi apply the eighth commandment?</p>
24	<p>Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.</p> <p>Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.</p>	Ephesians 4:28–30	<p>Why is stealing inappropriate for God’s people? What is the alternate suggested for stealing? How can you share with those in need? How does Ephesians 4 apply the eighth commandment?</p>

# God's Ten Words: Applying the Ten Commandments (continued)

Day	Passage	Verse reference	Questions
25	<p>'You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.'" Exodus 20:16</p> <p>One witness is not enough to convict a man accused of any crime or offence he may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. If a malicious witness takes the stand to accuse a man of a crime, the two men involved in the dispute must stand in the presence of the LORD before the priests and the judges who are in office at the time. The judges must make a thorough investigation, and if the witness proves to be a liar, giving false testimony against his brother, then do to him as he intended to do to his brother. You must purge the evil from among you. The rest of the people will hear of this and be afraid, and never again will such an evil thing be done among you.</p>	<p>Exodus 20:16</p> <p>Deuteronomy 19:15-20</p>	<p>Why is God against false witness? How does Deuteronomy 19 apply the ninth commandment? What does a malicious witness look like? How is this seen in the life of Jesus? How does this challenge you?</p>
26	<p>You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body.</p>	<p>Ephesians 4:22-25</p>	<p>How does Ephesians 4 apply the ninth commandment? Why should we put off falsehood? When are you tempted to twist the truth? What is the reason for truthfulness here?</p>
27	<p>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.</p>	<p>Matthew 5:10-12</p>	<p>How does the sermon on the mount apply the ninth commandment? How should we respond when people speak falsely of us? How do we see this in the life of Jesus?</p>

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28	<p>'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 neighbour.'</p> <p>Exodus 20:17</p> <p>What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.</p>	<p>Exodus 20:17</p> <p>Romans 7:7-12</p>	<p>Why is God against coveting? How does Romans 7 apply the tenth commandment? What do we learn about the tenth commandment from Romans 7? What does coveting look like in your life? How can you flee it?</p>
29	<p>You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honour your father and mother.'</p> <p>"Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."</p> <p>Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."</p> <p>At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.</p> <p>Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"</p>	<p>Mark 10:19-23</p>	<p>How does Jesus apply the tenth commandment in this conversation? What is the error of the man? Why does he go away sad? When are you tempted to covet? What couldn't you give up for Jesus?</p>
30	<p>But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.</p>	<p>1 Timothy 6:6-10</p>	<p>How does 1 Timothy 6 apply the tenth commandment? Contentment is the antidote to coveting. What does this teach us about contentment? Why is the love of money a trap? Where do you look for contentment?</p>



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31	<p>One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?'</p> <p>'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these.'</p> <p>'Well said, teacher,' the man replied.</p>	Mark 12:28-32	Jesus summarises the ten commandments in two. How can you love God in your life? How can you love your neighbour? How have the ten commandments help us to do this?