

Following Jesus

PARENT CONTEXT

To help us be right with Him, God has given us Law and Gospel. The Law is all of the rules God has given His children so that we can know what He commands us to do and what not to do. The Law shows us our sins and our need for a Savior. However, we are not perfect, and we continue to sin. That is why He also gave us the Gospel: The story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus died and rose to forgive us of our every sin. As we wait for Jesus to return, He calls us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" Mark 12:30.

BIBLE READING

EXODUS 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words: "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. "You shall not make for yourself an idol 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 fathers 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. "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor 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 manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. 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. "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. "You shall not murder. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

ASK: Why did God give us the Ten Commandments (Sayings)?

He gave us these rules because He loves us and so that we would follow His ways every day moment by moment. Jesus talks about these rules in Matthew 22:36-39: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" God tells us that to follow Him we should love Him and love our friends, family, classmates, and neighbors - everyone!

Jesus followed God's commands perfectly! He came to earth to serve His heavenly Father, and to serve us. Jesus made it a habit to help people wherever He went. He performed many miracles of mercy and might. He healed the sick, opened the eyes of the blind, calmed the seas, fed thousands, and raised the dead. He went to the cross to give His life for us.

ASK: What are some ways you can serve others and share the love of Christ?

ASK: Is it always easy to help other people?

No! Unlike Jesus, we often fail to love and serve others. That is why Jesus' service went beyond His miracles and His teaching. He has forgiven us of our sins through His death and resurrection! Jesus took the punishment for our sins. We should not only follow Jesus and love and serve others, but we are also to live as forgiven children of our heavenly Father and forgive others.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for sending Your Son to forgive us of all our sins even though we do not follow your rules perfectly. Help us to follow Jesus and serve and love others with the mind of Christ our Savior. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Family Resource

Use this link to dive deeper into God's Commandments!
<https://catechism.cph.org/en/10-commandments.html>

Craft

Using the attached page color, cut out, and bind together with string to make a bookmark! Use this bookmark to remember the greatest commandments: Love God and love others.