

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMANDMENTS

Bible Text: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; John 15:8-17; Joel 2:12-14

Lesson Focus: God's Commandments, given in love, protect our lives, our relationships, and the rights of all people.

Big Question: Why does God give us all these rules?

Key Words: COMMANDMENTS, COMMUNITY, PROSPERITY, ADVERSITY

BIBLE CONNECTION

-] God gives us commandments because God loves what God has created (Deuteronomy 5:1-21).
-] When we show love to our neighbor, we're showing love to God too (Matthew 25:31-46).
-] The Commandments help us focus on the things that really matter in life.
-] The Commandments point out how sinful we are (Romans 3:19-20).
-] God expects a lot of us with the Commandments.
-] There isn't a single human being who has kept all the Commandments.
-] God has a long history of forgiving people when they screw up (Matthew 1:18-25).
-] God not only gave us the Commandments, but also gave us Jesus to free us from sin (John 3:16-17).

CARTOON CONNECTION

-] Is there a commandment that is more important than the others? Why?
-] Which commandment is the most difficult to follow? Why?
-] If you could write an eleventh commandment, what would it be? Why?



STUDENT BOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 228: How to Be Saved (By Grace through Faith and Not by Your Good Works)

-] This is heavy stuff. Spend a few quiet minutes reading the introduction, the seven points, and "Be Aware." What do you make of all this?
-] Do you think that some people abuse God's grace by not trying to live a godly life?
-] If works don't get us into heaven, why bother following the Ten Commandments?

LIFE CONNECTION

God gives us rules, like the Ten Commandments, out of love. Sometimes that's hard to understand. Doesn't it sometimes feel like rules are given to keep you from enjoying your life? This week think about the rules that you have to follow. These include rules at home, at school, in the car, on the Internet, and so forth. Spend some time this week thinking about what's behind all these rules. Plan on sharing your insights in the next class.

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Word Scramble

Read the clues provided to help you unscramble the words.

1. MOANMSCDENTM
2. UETNGGISSO
3. AFRE
4. HETROS
5. CAGRE
6. TEUNRR
7. EIRSSNN
8. OEVL

1. Rules given by God.
2. What the commandments are NOT.
3. We're to _____ and love God.
4. Love God; love _____.
5. How we are saved.
6. Joel 2:12 tells us to _____ to God from our sinful ways.
7. Nothing can change the fact that we're _____.
8. God gave us the Ten Commandments out of _____.