

elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 1

The Ten Commandments

Have no other God

Bible Readings

Exodus 20 : 1 – 17

Deuteronomy 5 : 6 – 21

Deuteronomy 4 : 32 – 40

Job 38



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the Ten Commandments
- Express the theme of the first commandment in your own way
- Apply your learning from the commandment to your own life and community using the Justice hierarchy

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question What does it mean for God to be your One God?

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met :

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable ?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful ?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking ?

If you could change any Australian law, school rule, or create your own new law or rule that everyone had to obey, what would it be?

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Read together: Exodus 20: 1-17

Some people see rules, laws and commandments as restrictions on their lives and what they might want to do. Young people especially have a lot of rules and expectations placed on them often by well-intentioned adults, and not all those expectations are helpful.

A useful way to think positively about the Ten Commandments is to regard them as rules for a game. Games are more likely to be fair and fun if everyone knows and follows the rules. When rules are broken or seen as unjust, then things aren't so fair or fun for all involved.

So the Ten Commandments are God's rules for the game of life as he designed it. Anyone who plays by the rules has a life that is fairer and fun and more eligible for the prizes available.

Those that don't follow the rules are more likely to get into trouble, have other players get angry with them, and find it harder to enjoy the game.

If you disobey the rules badly, you're at greater risk of being sent off or facing penalties against you. It's your choice. (Deuteronomy 4:32-40)

Anyone keen to follow Jesus should however develop the skill to tell the difference between what people think are 'good' ways of behaving (usually so everyone can get along well in society) and what God thinks are the 'right' ways of behaving (remember Jesus didn't always play nicely to the rules of society).

We have to be very careful as Christian communities to help people recognise what might be nice for our community (our club rules) aren't always God's rules (e.g. it might be for someone to be a successful academic student, but that it is not a God expectation), and not to mix them up and say our club rules are God's rules when they aren't.

The above introduction is important to get across, but try to focus more on the first commandment: "I'm your God, have no other." Which is to really think about who God actually is, what he is capable of and for us to have the appropriate attitude towards him.

So explore:

- What does the word God mean to you?
- What can and can't God do?
- What is God like?
- How do you think God views creation including us humans?
- How protective or proud do you think he is over creation?
- What sort of attitude is appropriate to have towards him?

Explore – Express

Get some coloured plasticine and make a creature.

It can have whatever body parts and abilities you think it should. Try to give it as much detail as possible.

Give it a name and say it is the same age as you and make up a history of its life up to now. Talk about what kind of world it lives in (it could be ours). Give as much detail as possible. Make it the best you can.

You have about 10 minutes to make your own creature and jot down only in point form: its abilities, brief history and world it lives in. Then everyone shares about their creature.

After everyone shares, ask each the question:

“If your creation after living their lives gets to meet you, their Creator, what would you like them to think about you?”

Then ask each the question:

“What would you do if your creation said I don’t think you were my creator, and I can do whatever I want?”

Explore – Integrate

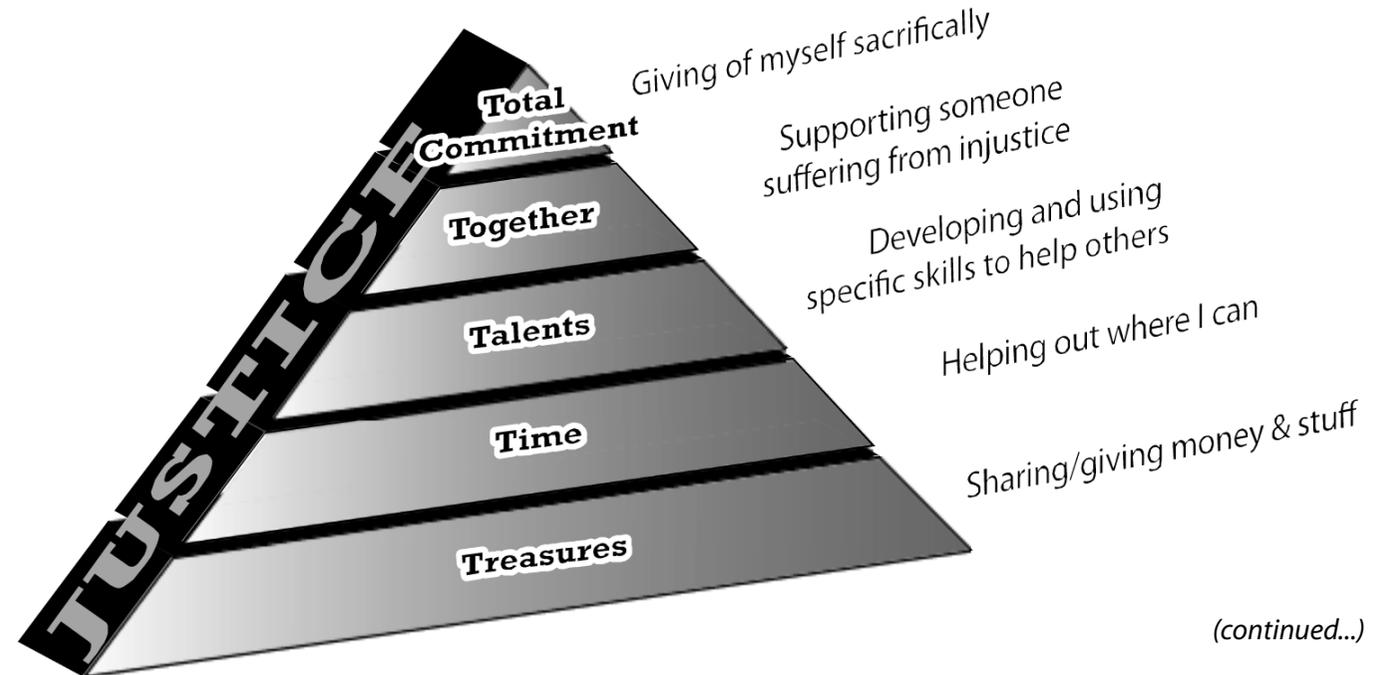
The first commandment is a reminder of the relationship we have with God, even if we don’t believe in him or want anything to do with him.

Not only is he God, but he is their God, responsible for a lot of the good in their lives, and there is no other power in their lives greater than his.

Now if this was a petty, jealous, power-obsessed, angry, bitter and abusive type of person saying this menacingly to us, we should be very worried.

But this is someone who has proved himself to be a loving father who is trusting and confident enough to let us make our own choices. He just wants to remind us, however, that he’s always near and caring.

The passage in Job can come across as God trying to belittle Job and put him in his place, but if you read the first chapter, you know how amazingly proud he is of Job. Chapter 4 of Deuteronomy reminds us of the benefits of following this rule.



(continued...)

Explore – Integrate *(...continued)*

If God is God and is all-powerful, protective, near and caring:

- What treasures can I give away to show my trust in him?
- How can I give more of my time to reflect God's original dream?
- What skill can I develop further to be more active in God's dream?
- Who is someone I hadn't thought of that is loved by God that I should act more like God to?
- What area of my life do I need to sacrifice to be more like God this week?

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need, or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Pray for us to be reminded especially this week that God is God.

Give thanks for the way God views us, proud of who we are, and chosen to be able to influence other people's lives for the better.

Pray that I may see and act out God's love with one person this week that doesn't deserve it.