

LEADER

Ten Commandments

REVISED EDITION



To Know, To Live,
To Grow

Series Overview

To Know, To Live, To Grow

To Know, To Live, To Grow is a holistic approach to confirmation. With Christian education as a key component, this material

helps youth integrate their faith with their families and into their congregational lives.



This curriculum is designed for groups of up to 10 youth participants and one leader. The leader

engages youth in their personal faith searches—walking with them, staying in dialogue with them, and encouraging them to be open about their questions and concerns. Leadership can come from young adults, parents, lay leaders, or clergy.

In addition to serving as confirmation curriculum, this series can be adapted for use with retreats, camp experiences, service opportunities, and other small-group activities.

Foundations

1. Confirmation is a ministry rather than religious education. This ministry is a joint effort of confirmands, parents, lay leaders, and church staff.
2. Confirmation ministry is Christ-centered, a place for people who need a Savior.
3. Confirmation ministry is not only about gaining knowledge but also about creating experiences in Christian community and serving others.
4. Confirmands exist within a family community. The family bears the primary responsibility for the faith development of the confirmand.
5. It is essential to meet young people's needs for acceptance, self-worth, and community as they prepare for the adult world by testing boundaries and questioning values while learning the message of the gospel.

To Know

Confirmands:

- understand how to read and interpret the Bible.
- learn about important people and events in the Bible.
- learn the central teachings of the Lutheran church.
- discuss the Scriptures and faith-related topics in small groups.
- complete in-class and homework assignments.

To Live

Confirmands:

- see the relevance of biblical events in their lives today.
- understand the church as the body of Christ, which functions by helping people.
- discover appropriate service opportunities in the church and the community.
- accept responsibility for serving God.
- express a willingness to confess the Christian faith.

To Grow

Confirmands:

- discover that Christian growth is a lifelong process.
- understand that Christian growth takes place through worship, prayer, education, and service.
- integrate the Bible and the Christian traditions into their daily lives.
- see how faith affects personal decision-making and the way we treat others.

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Contents

Session 1: Before the Commandments	2
Session 2: Respect for God	5
Session 3: Respect for Life	11
Session 4: Respect for Community	19
Community Cards	23

To the Leader . . .

Format

The To Know, To Live, To Grow confirmation curriculum is designed for use in a small group setting with up to 10 participants and one adult leader.

This material is intended for use over several sessions, with each session lasting 60 to 90 minutes. The flexible format allows you to make adjustments to fit your situation.

Many of the session activities can work during your time together as a group or as homework assignments between sessions.

The questions within each session often promote discussion rather than finding a specific answer. Some sessions may require more direction than others. Be prepared to spend extra time on topics of particular interest to your group.

Materials

Each participant should have a Participant book, writing materials, and a Bible. This curriculum uses the NRSV translation.

The Participant books follow the same format as this Leader guide—but with writing space instead of answers and without many of the margin notes that appear here.

Some activities may suggest additional items, such as maps, videos, or outside reading materials. Review upcoming sessions in advance to see what you will need.

May God bless you in your ministry!



Augsburg Fortress
MINNEAPOLIS

LEADER

Ten Commandments

REVISED EDITION

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Session 1

Before the Commandments

Scripture Text

Exodus 1:1—19:25

Open with prayer.

The book of Exodus describes several important events in the history of the Jewish people. Look up passages in Exodus to answer the following questions that set the stage for the Ten Commandments.

Where does this story begin? (Exodus 1:1) **Egypt.**

What were the midwives ordered to do? (Exodus 1:15-22)

To kill all male children.

How did Moses' family prevent this from happening to him? (Exodus 2:1-3)

They hid him for three months and then floated him down the river.

Who raised Moses? (Exodus 2:10) **Pharaoh's daughter.**

What does the name Moses mean? (Exodus 2:10)

To draw out.

Why did Moses flee to Midian? (Exodus 2:11-15)

He killed an Egyptian man.

What did Moses do in Midian? (Exodus 2:21-22)

He got married and had a child.

What role did the Jewish people have in Egyptian society? (Exodus 2:23)

They were slaves.

Why was Moses sent back to Egypt? (Exodus 3:7-10)

To free the Israelites.

Who did God send to help Moses? (Exodus 4:14-26) **His brother, Aaron.**

Why did God decide to show “signs and wonders”(the plagues) in Egypt? (Exodus 7:1-5)

To show God’s power to Pharaoh and to free the Israelites.

What meal did they celebrate just before they left Egypt? (Exodus 12:1-11)

Passover.

How long were the Israelites in Egypt? (Exodus 12:40)

430 years.

Why did God send the Israelites across the desert? (Exodus 13:17-18)

To avoid Pharaoh’s army.

How did God guide the Israelites? (Exodus 13:21-22)

By day: **Pillar of cloud during the day.**

By night: **Pillar of fire at night.**

How did the Israelites react when Pharaoh sent his army after them? (Exodus 14:10-12)

They were terrified.

How did Moses help them? (Exodus 14:13-31)

He divided the sea for the Israelites and closed it back up for the Egyptians.

What did the Israelites eat as they crossed the desert? (Exodus 16:13-16)

Quails and manna.

Where did Moses go to get the Ten Commandments? (Exodus 19:20-25)

Mount Sinai.

Why do you think God gave the Commandments to the Israelites at this time? (Exodus 1:1—19:25) **Moses gave the Israelites guidelines, and other leaders assisted him, but the Israelites continued to have problems living together in peace. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments at this point.**

The Ten Plagues

Exodus 7:1—12:51

List the ten plagues God sent to Egypt.

1. blood
2. frogs
3. gnats
4. flies
5. pestilence in livestock
6. boils
7. hail
8. locusts
9. darkness
10. killing firstborn sons

Rules and Guidelines

Read the questions below. Then share your answer to one of the questions with the rest of your group.

- What is one rule you follow at your house?
- To whom do you turn for advice?
- Has anyone ever asked for your advice? Were you able to help?

What's Ahead?

The next three sessions go into depth on the Ten Commandments. God gave us these Commandments as guidelines for living. The Ten Commandments set positive boundaries for our lives.

As a group, make a list of some rules or guidelines you have in these areas:

- Home **Individual answers.**
- School **Individual answers.**
- Friends **Individual answers.**

Now go back over your lists and decide why each rule or guideline is important. Think about what life would be like if the rule or guideline didn't exist.

As a group, define the following words:

Rule An expectation for how we should behave, usually within a particular setting, such as home or school. Even fun activities, such as sports and games, have rules. Rules can help us work together and get along.

Guideline A suggestion that has more flexibility than a rule. Many guidelines are optional.

Law An official regulation—usually established by the government and with legal consequences when broken, such as a fine or imprisonment.

Covenant A promise between two people or between God and people.

Commandment One of the ten rules God gave the Israelites. Jesus taught the disciples one more in John 13:34: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

How is a Commandment different from the other words above?

A Commandment comes directly from God. Although we sometimes speak of the Law of God, the word *law* and similar terms usually describe expectations that come from humans.

Close with prayer.

Session 2

Respect for God

Open with prayer.

The First Commandment

Read Exodus 20:1-3. Write the First Commandment here:

You shall have no other gods before me.

Who Is God?

Draw a picture showing how you see God. Impressionistic or abstract drawings are okay. Or write a poem or list of words that describe God. Share your work with the rest of the group.

As a group, write down some characteristics that seem to describe God. Make a poster with these words on it and hang it in your room. The following verses might be helpful.

- Deuteronomy 32:4
- Psalm 19:1
- Psalm 90:1-2
- Psalm 102:27
- Psalm 145:9
- Jeremiah 10:10
- Malachi 3:6
- Matthew 19:26
- John 4:24
- John 21:17
- Hebrews 3:4
- 1 John 4:8

Spend some time talking about what these characteristics mean to you. Why is it important to you that God has these characteristics?

Scripture Text

Exodus 20:1-11

Ten Commandments

First Commandment

Second Commandment

Third Commandment

Fourth Commandment

Fifth Commandment

Sixth Commandment

Seventh Commandment

Eighth Commandment

Ninth Commandment

Tenth Commandment

Leader's Note

Choose activities that fit your group's interests and the time you have available this session.

Set Your Priorities

How many hours do you spend on the following activities in an average week?

_____ School/Homework

_____ Family/Relatives

_____ Friends/Socializing/Talking

_____ Watching TV/Playing video games/Listening to music

_____ Reading the Bible/Praying/Attending church

_____ Helping others

_____ Sports/Extracurricular activities

Rate these activities from 1 (your top priority) to 7 (your bottom priority).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

Leader's Note

You could point out that the Bible does not specifically number each Commandment, and some denominations number the Commandments differently from Lutherans. No matter how you count them, though, the total still comes out to ten, and the content stays the same.

Pay close attention to your top two priorities and your bottom two priorities. Are your priorities in alignment with the First Commandment?

Based on the First Commandment, what would your first priority be? **God.**

With your group, list some ways of making God your first priority.

Spending time in prayer, going to worship, reading the Bible, choosing to follow God's word.

As a group, list some other "gods," or distractions, that we have in our society.

Examples: money, popularity, power, unhealthy food, drugs, sex, music, sports.

How does the First Commandment give you freedom?

This Commandment gives us focus for our lives and a sense of belonging to a great community of believers.

The Second Commandment

Read Exodus 20:7. Write the Second Commandment here:

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.

What's in a Name?

Materials chalkboard or chart paper
 baby name book

On a chalkboard or chart paper, list everyone's name in your group. Look up the names and write down the characteristics associated with each one.

Think about the following questions:

- What do you like or dislike about your name?
- Why did your parents choose your name?
- Do you have a nickname? How did you get your nickname?
- Why are names important?

Prayers, Swears, and Curses

Read the following list. Put a check mark before the statements that use God's name disrespectfully. The sentences in parentheses give the context for each statement.

- _____ "God!" (After hitting your finger with a hammer.)
- _____ "God, I am so mad!" (In conversation with a friend.)
- _____ "Dear God, thank you for our food." (Praying before a meal.)
- _____ "God is so good." (During a song of praise.)
- _____ "God #@# you!" (Swearing at someone.)
- _____ "We believe in God." (At a worship service.)
- _____ "God, please take care of my family." (Addressing God in prayer.)
- _____ "I swear to God." (Making a promise to someone.)

Leader's Note

This would be a time to discuss the difference between swearing and cursing.

- **Swearing is using God's name in vain.**
- **Cursing is using God's name to wish harm on someone.**

What are we asking for when we use God's name?

Possible answers: drawing attention to God, validating God's promises, acknowledging that we are part of God's family.

Why do people misuse God's name?

Possible answers: anger, a need for attention, lack of knowledge that they are breaking a Commandment, lack of consideration or respect for God.

Why do you think the Second Commandment asks us not to make wrongful use of God's name?

We should treat God's name with respect, honoring God by using God's name when referring to God and holy things.

How does the Second Commandment give you freedom?

By focusing on the sacredness of God and God's name, we can avoid many temptations or "false gods" in society.

The Third Commandment

Read Exodus 20:8-11. Write the Third Commandment here:

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.

Take a Break

Materials travel brochures
 vacation photos or slides

Look at pictures of vacation spots. With your group, talk about vacations you have taken. Why do people go on vacations? How are vacation days different than other days? Why do we need vacations?

What does the word *sabbath* mean?

A holy day of rest and worship that commemorates the completion of creation.

Read Genesis 2:2-3. What do these verses say about the sabbath?

By the seventh day, God had finished the work of creating the world. God rested and blessed the seventh day, making it holy.

What do you think God wants us to do on the sabbath?

We use sabbath time for prayer, worship, and rest.

When are the “sabbath” times in our lives today?

Most Christians have sabbath times on Sundays. However, sabbath time can be anytime of the week.

How does the Third Commandment give you freedom?

Sabbath time releases us from the concerns of the world and allows us time to rest and be with God, our creator.

Look again at the first three Commandments. How are these Commandments related to one another?

These three Commandments are based on respect for God. Out of love, God asks us first and foremost, to respect God

Read Matthew 22:37. Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

Leader's Note

Allow the participants to write in their own style and to use their creativity. Encourage them to use positive language, focusing on the gifts of these Commandments instead of treating them only as restrictions.

Rewrite the first three Commandments as guidelines for respecting God in your everyday life. Word your “commandments” positively. For example: “I will love God” instead of “You shall have no other gods before me.”

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

For the next session, bring a baby picture of yourself. Ask a parent or guardian to describe the day you were born, where you were born, and who saw you first. Did your parent have special hopes for you?

Close with the Lord's Prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Luke 11:1-4

*Father, hallowed be
your name.*

Your kingdom come.

*Give us each day
our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive
everyone indebted to us.*

*And do not bring us
to the time of trial.*

Session 3

Respect for Life

Open with prayer.

Baby Pictures

Begin this session by passing around everyone's baby pictures. Taking turns, share one story about yourself when you were little. Next, share what you discussed with your parent about the day you were born.

The Fourth Commandment

Read Exodus 20:12. Write the Fourth Commandment here:

Honor your father and mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

Becoming a Parent

Imagine that all of the participants in your group are adults who are about to become parents. With your group, discuss the questions below.

How does the thought of being a parent make you feel?

Individual answers.

What expectations do you think you'll have for your child?

Individual answers.

Will you want your child to be like you? Or like someone else?

Individual answers.

Scripture Text

Exodus 20:12-14

Ten Commandments

First Commandment

Second Commandment

Third Commandment

Fourth Commandment

Fifth Commandment

Sixth Commandment

Seventh Commandment

Eighth Commandment

Ninth Commandment

Tenth Commandment

Leader's Note

Choose activities that fit your group's interests and the time you have available this session.

Who's the Boss?

List several of the authorities in your life.

Individual answers.

How do the people listed above keep order in our lives?

Sample answers: they keep us safe, help us grow, care about us.

What would our lives be like without these authorities?

Individual answers.

Generation to Generation

Visit a nursing home or invite a senior citizen to speak to your group. Here are some questions you might like to ask an older person you are visiting or who is speaking to your group.

- What rules did you have in your home when you were growing up?
- What rules did you set for your own family?
- What were the things that got you into trouble?
- Who were the people you went to for advice?
- What advice did they give you?
- What advice could you give us?

With your group, talk about what would happen if we didn't have people in authority.

Leader's Note

If your group is visiting a nursing home, make sure in advance that this activity is appropriate for the residents there.

Look up the following verses. What do they say about honoring authorities?

Leviticus 19:32 **Respect the elderly.**

Acts 5:29 **Obey God over humans.**

Romans 13:2 **Rebelling against authorities is rebelling against structures that God has instituted.**

Ephesians 6:2-3 **Honor your father and mother.**

Colossians 3:20 **It pleases God when you honor your parents.**

Now consider the questions below.

How can we learn from people who are older, wiser, or more experienced?

By respecting and listening to them, and by following their examples.

What does God specifically promise us in the Fourth Commandment?

God promises us long lives if we obey this Commandment. This is a general promise rather than a personal guarantee. In most cases, respecting authorities and following rules helps to protect us from harm. But this does not mean that individuals who respect their parents automatically have long lives or that people who rebel against authorities always have short lives.

This Commandment implies that parents should provide safe environments for their children. Child abuse clearly violates this and other Commandments.

How does the Fourth Commandment give you freedom?

God is pointing out that we are not meant to be entirely self-reliant and that role models are available to us.

Leader's Note

It is important to acknowledge that people in authority are human and may make mistakes. Sometimes disagreeing with corrupt authorities is justified.

The Fifth Commandment

Read Exodus 20:13. Write the Fifth Commandment here:

You shall not murder.

In the News

Materials newspapers/magazines
 paper
 scissors
 glue

Split into two groups. One group should cut articles and pictures from newspapers or magazines that describe or show life. The other group should cut out articles and pictures about death. Make two collages with these pictures, one for life and one for death.

As a group, talk about which collage is fullest.

Which one do you like the best? Why?

In addition to the images from print sources, you could also discuss related images from computer games, films, and TV.

Describe the images that show life:

Possible images: babies, nature scenes, people who have survived tragedies.

Describe the images that show death:

Possible images: war, murder, famine, people who recently have died.

Babies, Babies, Babies

Invite a new parent to speak with your group. (The newborn child can come too.) Ask the parent what it was like expecting a child, and seeing the child for the first time. Or visit the maternity ward at your local hospital and discuss the experience with your group.

As a group, come up with a definition of life.

Some ideas: being able to eat, grow, and reproduce; being able to move and respond; the period of time from birth until death.

List some ways we can promote life.

Some ideas: not hurting one another, complimenting one another, respecting one another; serving one another.

Read Genesis 1:26-28, 31; Genesis 9:6.

Why do you think God wants us to promote life?

By promoting life, we respect God's creation and the fact that we are created in the likeness of God. God wants us to promote life because we are loved.

How does the Fifth Commandment give you freedom?

Being alive is freedom in itself. The Fifth Commandment also allows us to see the value God places on everyone.

The Sixth Commandment

Read Exodus 20:14. Write the Sixth Commandment here:

You shall not commit adultery.

Ready or Not?

Jill and Tom have been seeing each other for the past two months. They met in algebra class and went to the fall dance together. Jill watches Tom's basketball games, they've seen a few movies together, and they talk on the phone almost every night. Now Tom is starting to pressure Jill to have sex with him. Jill feels strongly about waiting until she is married to have sex. She enjoys kissing Tom and being his girlfriend, but she doesn't want to go further.

- How do you feel about this situation?
- What impact could sexual activity have on Jill and Tom's relationship?
- How can Tom respect Jill's desires? How can Jill respect Tom's desires?
- What are some options that Jill and Tom have?

A Love Triangle?

Jon and Kim have been going out for six months. They both said they were seeing each other exclusively, but Jon just found out that Kim also has been seeing a guy from another school. She's been bragging to her friends about secretly dating two guys at once. Kim still acts like everything is the same between her and Jon, but he isn't sure what to do. He still really cares for Kim even if she's been dishonest.

- How do you feel about this situation?
- What role does honesty have in this relationship?
- Do you think Kim misled Jon? Why or why not?
- How can Kim be respectful of Jon's needs in the future?
- How can Jon be respectful of Kim's needs in the future?

Will You Marry Me?

Imagine that all of the participants in the group are about to get married. As a group, come up with a description of the ideal husband or wife:

Individual answers.

Make a list of things you can do to keep your relationship strong:

Some examples: be honest, be faithful, take care of yourself.

List some things that might destroy your relationship:

Some examples: being unfaithful, being rude, not listening to the other person.

Think about friendships, girlfriend/boyfriend relationships, and family relationships. Now list things that are important to you in a relationship:

Individual answers.

Go back over the two lists above. Talk with your group about how you can begin using the things that are important to you in your current relationships with others.

How can we show respect for others in our relationships?

Some examples: showing honesty, trustworthiness, honor, and respect.

How does the Sixth Commandment give us freedom?

The Sixth Commandment allows us to experience richness in our relationships. It allows us to feel closer and more connected to each other.

Look again at the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments. How are these Commandments related to one another?

These Commandments are based on respect for life. Out of God’s love for us, we respect the life God has given to us and those around us.

Rewrite the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments into guidelines for respecting life on a daily basis. Word your “commandments” positively.

In the coming week, pay close attention to the TV shows you regularly watch. Using the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments, evaluate the programs you watch in the following ways:

- Are authorities honored on these TV shows?
- Is life honored and promoted on the shows?
- Are committed relationships honored?

Close with the Lord’s Prayer.

Session 4

Respect for Community

Open with prayer.

The Seventh Commandment

Read Exodus 20:15. Write the Seventh Commandment here:

You shall not steal.

Note: This includes plagiarism (taking credit for someone else's work) or cheating in a competition (taking away someone's fair chance at success).

To Catch a Thief

For this activity, ask the participants to put down their heads and close their eyes. A few seconds later, place a small object next to one of the participants. Then ask them to look up again and announce that something of yours is missing. It is up to the participants to find the "stolen object" and identify the "thief."

After following the directions of your group's leader, choose a "chief inspector" to take charge of the investigation. After you figure out who is the "thief," discuss the following questions as a group.

- What happened in your group when you tried to find the "thief"?
- What was it like to be the "thief"?
- Have you ever had something taken from you?
- How did you feel?
- What is stealing?
- Why do you think God says we should not steal?

Look up the following verses. What do they say about stealing?

Proverbs 29:24	To be involved in stealing is not to respect yourself.
Jeremiah 22:13	It is wrong to act unjustly.
Matthew 7:12	Do to others as you would have them do to you.
Ephesians 4:28	Do not steal. Work honestly. Give to the poor.
2 Thessalonians 3:10	If you are not willing to work, you should not eat.

How does the Seventh Commandment give you freedom?

Individual answers.

Scripture Text

Exodus 20:15-17

Ten Commandments

First Commandment

Second Commandment

Third Commandment

Fourth Commandment

Fifth Commandment

Sixth Commandment

Seventh Commandment

Eighth Commandment

Ninth Commandment

Tenth Commandment

Community Cards

You can use the Community Cards on pages 23-24 with Session 4 or as a stand-alone activity.

Permission is granted to photocopy the cards on page 24.

As the participants work through this activity, let them struggle a bit until they find a solution.

The Eighth Commandment

Read Exodus 20:16. Write the Eighth Commandment here:

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

And Then They Said . . .

Play the game “telephone.” The leader will whisper a statement to the nearest participant. Then go around the group whispering this message to the next person until everyone has heard. The last person can repeat the message out loud. Afterward, discuss these questions as a group.

- Did the message change as it was repeated? What happened?
- Does this happen in real life?
- Has someone ever spread false information about you? How did you feel?
- Have you ever done something that you were sorry for doing? Explain.
- How would you feel if this story got spread around school?
- Why do you think God would not want us to spread rumors?
- Do rumors help build people up or make them better people? Why or why not?

Look up the following verses. What do they say about giving false testimony?

Proverbs 11:13	There is a difference between secrets and confidences.
Proverbs 19:5	Liars will be punished.
Proverbs 31:8-9	Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves.
Zechariah 8:17	God does not want us to hate other people or speak falsely against them.
Matthew 26:14-16	Judas betrayed his friend and teacher, Jesus.
Luke 6:37	Don't judge or condemn others. Forgive others.
Ephesians 4:25	We should speak the truth to each other because we are interconnected.
James 4:11	Speaking evil of another makes one a judge, which is not the proper place.
1 Peter 4:8	Love one another above all else.

How does the Eighth Commandment give you freedom?

Individual answers.

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

Read Exodus 20:17. Write the Ninth and Tenth Commandments here:

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Time to Eat

The leader will pass out treats. Three participants get fruit, three of them get candy, and the rest get nuts. Everyone can eat their own treats, but no one can share or exchange their food with someone else. After everyone has finished, discuss the following questions:

- How does it feel to be different from the others in your group?
- Who got the best treat? Who got the worst treat?
- Did you want to share your treat, or exchange it with someone else? Why?
- Have you ever wanted something that belonged to someone else? Explain.
- Has someone wanted something of yours? Explain.

What about Me?

On separate sheets of paper, complete these thoughts.

- These are the members of my immediate family ...
- This is what my home looks like ...
- One thing I can do well ...
- My best subject in school ...
- My worst subject in school ...
- As an adult I would like to do or be ...
- One reason my friends like me ...
- One day I hope to ...

After everyone has filled out their sheets, compare answers in the group.

- In what ways were everyone's answers the same?
- In what ways were everyone's answers different?
- How does it feel when others are good at things that you'd like to do well?

All of us are blessed with special gifts and resources. All of us are different; no two people are exactly the same. It is in our nature to envy other people's abilities and possessions. Sometimes we complain about the world not being fair or we feel cheated.

Leader's Note

Bring in three pieces of fruit, three pieces of candy, and several small bags of nuts.

Before distributing any food, ask participants if they have any food allergies or dietary restrictions.

Substitute different foods as needed.

List some things that tempt us in our society:

Examples: money, nice clothes, cars, influence over other people.

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments admit that according to worldly standards, life is not fair. But God loves us all the same, and encourages us to love each other in that same way. Once again, God calls us to focus on God, not on the things of the world. Look up the following verses. What do they say about keeping a holy heart?

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Psalm 37:4 | If we keep our focus on God, God will help us keep our focus off of material possessions. |
| Galatians 5:1 | In Christ, we are freed from sin. We should stay connected to Christ. |
| Ephesians 6:10-19 | Put on the armor of God for protection. God's path includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, Spirit, and prayer. |
| James 1:14-15 | We are all tempted to sin. |

How do the Ninth and Tenth Commandments give you freedom?

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments allow us to rely on our own gifts and resources instead of longing for things that belong to other people. We should respect and love God more than possessions.

Rewrite the last four Commandments into guidelines for respecting community in your everyday life. Word your "commandments" positively.

Lord's Prayer

Luke 11:1-4

*Father, hallowed be
your name.*

Your kingdom come.

*Give us each day
our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive
everyone indebted to us.*

*And do not bring us
to the time of trial.*

Keeping all Ten Commandments in mind, discuss ways you can respect others in your community.

Close with the Lord's Prayer.

Community Cards

The leader should give one participant the first card, the card that mentions the home burning down. Hand out the other cards to the rest of the participants. Using the resources listed on the other cards, participants should decide how they can help the one whose house had burned down.

- How can we find out what needs exist in our community?
- Was there a way each person in your group could help?
- What if only one person were available to help?

This activity is about community. We are all a part of several communities: our family, school, church, town, friends, teams, and other groups. Sometimes we can choose which communities we will belong to, other times we don't have any choice.

When I am a part of a community, what I do influences others in the community, even though I may not intend to influence them. For example:

- If I attend Central High School and our football team wins the state championship, I celebrate that win whether I played on the team or not.
- If I am a member of Central Lutheran Church and our congregation builds a house for Habitat for Humanity, I am associated with Habitat for Humanity whether I worked on the house or not.
- If my parents get a divorce, I am affected by the divorce, even though it is not my decision.
- If I hang out with a certain crowd at school, and one person from that group picks on someone else, the behavior of that person reflects on me, even if I don't do anything.

Make a list of the communities that you are part of, then share your list with the rest of the group.

Our behavior positively and negatively affects other people. My actions not only affect me, but also those groups to which I belong. In the same way, the behavior of others in my community also affects me in some way. It works both ways. How do the Ten Commandments help us to live in community with other people?

Community Cards

You can use Community Cards with Session 4 of *Ten Commandments* or as a stand-alone activity.

Permission is granted to photocopy the cards on page 24.

Community Cards

<p>Your home has been destroyed in a fire. All of your possessions are gone. You have no insurance or extra savings.</p>	<p>You have a surplus of building materials available.</p>	<p>You have extra furniture available.</p>
<p>You have extra clothing available.</p>	<p>You are a good listener.</p>	<p>You have time off from school or work for the next few weeks and have plenty of spare time.</p>
<p>You have a spare bedroom in your home.</p>	<p>You are friends with the person whose home was lost in a fire and have many photos and mementos of your friendship together.</p>	<p>You just completed a psychology course on interpersonal skills.</p>
<p>You are an experienced carpenter.</p>	<p>You work for the fire department.</p>	<p>You don't have any specialized skills or resources to offer but would still like to help in some way.</p>
<p>You have extra money this week.</p>	<p>You are looking for a roommate to share your apartment.</p>	<p>You are part of a prayer chain.</p>
<p>You are a talented chef.</p>	<p>You own a grocery store.</p>	<p>You own a clothing store.</p>



To Know, To Live,
To Grow

Apostles' Creed
Building the Christian Church
Jesus of Nazareth
Lord's Prayer
Meaning of Service: Living in Love
My Faith
New Testament
Old Testament
Ten Commandments
What Is a Lutheran?

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