



Navigate: Ten Commandments Series
Small Group & House Church Bible Study

Commandment 1 – “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Pray and ask God to speak to your group as you open the Bible together. Read Exodus 19:1-6a & 20:1-3.

1. In verses 19:1-6, the LORD recounts His actions to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt and then declares that they are His treasured possession, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. It is after this that the Ten Commandments are given in chapter 20. Biblical commentators note that the fact the Ten Commandments came after Egypt, and not as a requirement before leaving Egypt, is significant. What does this tell us about the relationship between God’s grace and our obedience?
2. The Ten Commandments were given to provide a framework for human flourishing – both for life in Israel but also for the world watching their example. Just as a mother and father give rules to keep their children safe and happy, so God looks at us in love gives us the commandments. How is God’s love revealed in these Ten Commandments?
3. The first commandment is given in verse 3 of chapter 20. The Heidelberg Catechism can be helpful in our understanding the meaning of this commandment. Read Lord’s Day 34 QA 94 & 95. If you do not have a physical Heidelberg Catechism you can view it online at <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/confessions/heidelberg-catechism>
 - a. What stands out to you in QA94?
 - b. After reading the definition of idolatry in QA95, what do you think are idols that the average Canadian might struggle with?
 - c. Has there ever been an idol in your life God called you to let go of? How did you see God’s blessing as you made more space in your heart for Him?
4. C.S. Lewis famously wrote: “It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” How does this quote from Lewis speak about idolatry? What are we ultimately missing when we become entangled with false gods of our creation? What is God’s loving desire for us?

Pray as a group thanking God for His incredible Grace in Christ. Thank God for giving us the Ten Commandments out of His desire to see us flourish. Thank God that He is all that you need in life and in death. Ask God to reveal in your heart any idols that might be clouding you from experiencing His full joy and glory. Repent and ask God to take those idols away.