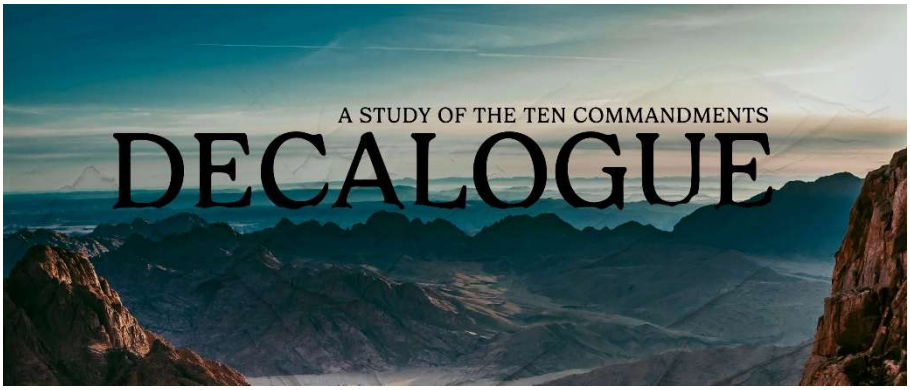


Series Overview and Guides

2026 ANNUAL VISION | SERIES 6

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

We become people of enduring value by building our character and conduct on God's revealed values.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery."

—Deuteronomy 5:6

"The problem is neatly posed: How shall the judges judge? On what basis shall they proceed so that their judgment will not be arbitrary? [Paul] Robert painted Justice standing unblindfolded, with her sword pointed not vertically upward but downward toward a book, and on the book is written, 'The Law of God.'"

— Francis Schaeffer
How Should We Then Live?
(Discussing Robert's mural "Justice Lifts the Nations" in the old Swiss Supreme Court Building, Lausanne)

Premise

why we are studying this

Many lament the lack of character and degenerating conduct across the western world. Few seem to realize that the bricks are falling from the cultural building because the foundation has been eroded. The Decalogue speaks to us as individuals and as societies, reminding us of the character and conduct of God which He empowers us to follow.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"After Moses came back, he summoned the elders of the people and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. Then all the people responded together, 'We will do all that the Lord has spoken.' So Moses brought the people's words back to the Lord."

—Exodus 19:7-8

"The Ten Commandments are the basis of Western civilisation."

—David Baker
"Ten Commandments, Two Tablets: The Shape of the Decalogue"
in *Themelios*

Theme

what the study is about

God has revealed wisdom in His values. These values are expressed throughout scripture, receiving special attention in ethical instruction passages like those in Proverbs, the Sermon on the Mount, Leviticus, Romans 12-15. Yet all of these rest on the bedrock of God's character revealed in the Ten Commandments.

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"Where then does wisdom come from,
and where is understanding located?
It is hidden from the eyes of every living
thing
and concealed from the birds of the sky.
Abaddon and Death say,
'We have heard news of it with our ears.'
But God understands the way to wisdom,
and he knows its location.
For he looks to the ends of the earth
and sees everything under the heavens.
When God fixed the weight of the wind
and distributed the water by measure,
when he established a limit for the rain
and a path for the lightning,
he considered wisdom and evaluated it;
he established it and examined it.
He said to mankind,
'The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom.
And to turn from evil is understanding.'"

—Job 28:20-28

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The content of this study guide is based on the sermon and personal study notes of

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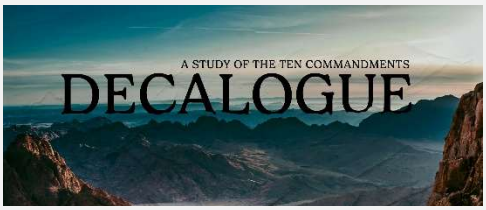
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SERIES 6 | SESSION 1



ANNUAL VISION 2026

VALUE

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 20:1-3; Deuteronomy 5:6-7

KEY IDEAS

THEME

God values revelation and reliability.

LIFE CHANGE OBJECTIVE

We would take God at His word.

GREATEST COMMANDMENT

"The Ten Commandments can be divided into two categories: those which pertain to man's relationship with God (1–4), and those dealing with man's relationship to his fellow man (5–10). All the rest of the laws in the Pentateuch fit into these two categories. For this reason, Jesus teaches that the greatest commandment is 'Love the Lord your God' while the second is 'Love your neighbor as yourself' (Matt. 22:37–39). Then he proceeds to say 'All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments' (22:40). In many respects the laws of the Pentateuch are guides to living out these two principles."

—James K. Hoffmeier
"Exodus" in *Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*

WESTERN CIVILIZATION

"The Ten Commandments are the basis of Western civilisation."

—David Baker
"Ten Commandments, Two Tablets: The Shape of the Decalogue" in *Themelios*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we trust and obey God's commands.

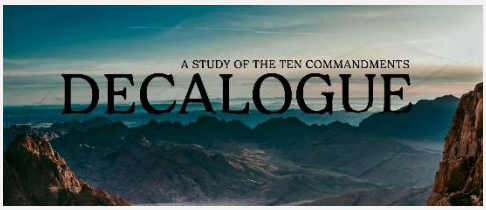
GROUP DISCUSSION

Session 1: God Values Revelation

1. Read Exodus 19:3-8, 16-19.
   - What had God already done for Israel before asking anything of them?
   - What do these verses tell us about the kind of relationship God desires with His people?
2. Read Exodus 20:1-2 and Deuteronomy 5:6.
   - Before God gives Israel the first commandment, what does He remind them about who He is and what He has done?
   - Why do you think God begins the Ten Commandments with redemption rather than rules?
   - What difference does it make to view obedience as a response to God's grace rather than a way of earning His favor?
3. Read Exodus 20:3; Psalm 115:3-8 and 1 Corinthians 8:4-6.
   - What contrasts do these passages make between the Lord and other "gods"?
   - What does the command to have "no other gods" require beyond simply rejecting pagan idols?
   - What might compete with God for our ultimate allegiance today?
4. Read Exodus 20:3 and Matthew 6:19-24.
   - What do Jesus' words about treasure, the heart, and serving two masters add to our understanding of "no other gods"?
   - What is the connection between undivided allegiance to God and integrity in the rest of life?
   - Where are we most tempted to divide our allegiance between God and something else?
5. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-6, 20-24.
   - What reasons does Moses give Israel for obeying God's commands?
   - How does this challenge the idea that God's commands are primarily restrictions on our freedom?
   - As people already redeemed by God, what would it look like for us to trust that God's commands are given for our good?

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SERIES 6 | SESSION 2



ANNUAL VISION 2026

VALUE

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 20:4-7; Deuteronomy 5:8-11

KEY IDEAS

THEME

God values propriety in love and worship.

LIFE CHANGE OBJECTIVE

We would worship God alone.

IDOLATRY

"So, what is idolatry? Essentially, idolatry is worshiping anything created instead of the Creator. Why is God so concerned with this? Well, it's simple: God is concerned with idolatry because God is concerned with worship.

As people, God made us to worship Him. This is right. It's good because God alone deserves worship. But if we flip this around and God does not promote or protect His glory and honor, He is not acting like God. Too often, people think about God like He is a person (part of creation) while at the same time thinking about creation like it's God (worthy of worship). Incidentally, the promotion of creation and demotion of the Creator are both inappropriate. It's idolatry."

—Erik Raymond
"What is Idolatry?"
Ligonier.org

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we honestly identify and remove the idols in our lives.

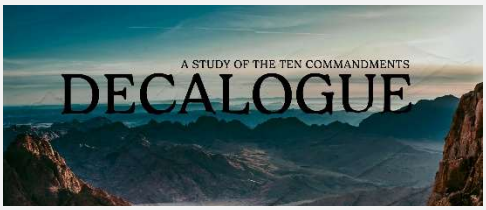
GROUP DISCUSSION

Session 2: God Values Propriety

1. Read Exodus 20:4-6 and Romans 1:21-25.
   - What do these passages tell us about the nature of idolatry?
   - Paul describes idolatry as an "exchange"—exchanging the glory and truth of God for something created. Why are we tempted to make that exchange?
   - What does idolatry reveal about what we believe is truly valuable?
2. Read Matthew 6:19-24 and Colossians 3:5
   - What do these passages suggest can function as an idol in our lives?
   - How can something that is good—family, career, possessions, success, even ministry—become an idol? How can we recognize when something we value has become something we worship or serve?
3. Read Exodus 20:5-6 and Exodus 34:12-14.
   - How is God's jealousy different from the selfish or possessive jealousy we normally associate with that word?
   - What does His jealousy tell us about the relationship He desires with His people?
   - Why would a God who loves us refuse to share our worship with an idol?
4. Read Exodus 20:5-6 and Exodus 34:5-7. The Hebrew word *hesed* describes God's faithful, steadfast, covenant love.
   - What do these passages reveal about God's character?
   - How do God's jealousy and His hesed belong together rather than contradict one another?
   - How should experiencing God's faithful love affect our love and obedience toward Him?
5. Read Exodus 20:7 and Matthew 6:9.
   - What does it mean to treat God's name as holy?
   - What are some ways Christians can honor—or dishonor—God's name through our words and actions?

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SERIES 6 | SESSION 3



ANNUAL VISION 2026

VALUE

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15

KEY IDEAS

THEME

God values rest and patience.

LIFE CHANGE OBJECTIVE

We would find rest in God.

PATIENCE

"Patience is the virtue that does not worry about time. It isn't the same as delay or sluggishness. The truly patient man is ready to act, but waits for the time to do so, not fearfully, but alertly, and when the time comes, he acts with speed and confidence."

—Anthony Esolen
Word & Song, a commentary on John Milton's "When I Consider How My Light Is Spent"

STAND AND WAIT

"God doth not need
Either man's work or his own gifts; who best
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best; his State
Is Kingly. Thousands at his bidding speed
And post o'er Land and Ocean without rest:
They also serve who only stand and wait."

—John Milton
"When I Consider How My Light Is Spent"

PRAYER

Pray for each other, that we cease striving in our own strength and rest in the Lord.

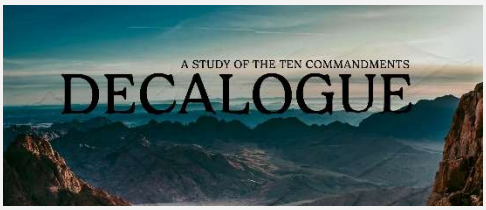
GROUP DISCUSSION

Session 3: God Values Rest

1. Read Exodus 20:8-11.
   - What pattern does God establish through His own work and rest in creation?
   - Why do you think God built both work and rest into the rhythm He gave His people?
   - What does that tell us about the value God places on each?
2. Read Deuteronomy 5:12-15 and Psalm 103:13-14.
   - What reason does Moses give Israel for resting?
   - How was Sabbath rest a reminder that they were no longer slaves in Egypt?
   - What does our reluctance to stop working sometimes reveal about how we view ourselves—and God?
3. Read Proverbs 6:6-11 and Ecclesiastes 4:6.
   - How do these passages distinguish rest from laziness?
   - Why might "one handful with rest" sometimes be better than greater productivity gained through constant striving?
   - How can intentional rest actually help us become more faithful and productive in the work God gives us?
4. Read Exodus 16:4-5, 19-23.
   - What did Israel have to do differently on the sixth day in order to rest on the seventh? What does this teach us about the relationship between planning and rest?
   - What changes might we need to make in our schedules, priorities, or expectations if we want rest to become an intentional part of life rather than something we do only when everything else is finished?
5. Read Matthew 11:28-30.
   - What kind of rest does Jesus promise to those who come to Him? What must we believe about God—and about ourselves—in order to stop striving and trust Him?
   - What burdens are we carrying that Jesus may be inviting us to surrender to Him?

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SERIES 6 | SESSION 4



ANNUAL VISION 2026

VALUE

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16

KEY IDEAS

THEME

God values family.

LIFE CHANGE OBJECTIVE

We would honor the Lord by honoring family.

GOD'S FAMILY

"God's family has household rules; his people are not honorary citizens but real citizens of a kingdom that has laws that must be kept. They are vassals of a sovereign who has required obedience of them for their benefit. The laws of Exodus spell out both the obligations and the benefits."

Duane Garrett,
"Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs"
in *New American Commentary*

OBEY YOUR PARENTS

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise, so that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life in the land. Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

—Ephesians 6:1-4

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we honor our parents in the Lord.

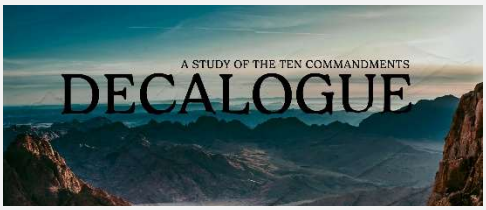
GROUP DISCUSSION

Session 4: God Values Family

1. Read Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 5:16.
   - Why do you think honoring parents has such an important place among the Ten Commandments? What promise accompanies the command?
   - What does this tell us about the value God places on the family?
2. Read Ephesians 6:1-3.
   - Paul tells children to "obey" their parents and then quotes the command to "honor" them.
   - How are obedience and honor related? How are they different?
   - How might the way we honor our parents change as we move from childhood into adulthood?
3. Read Ephesians 6:1-4.
   - What responsibilities does Paul give to children, and what responsibilities does he give to parents?
   - Why does he warn fathers not to provoke their children to anger?
   - How can parents exercise God-given authority in ways that help their children know and honor the Lord?
4. Read Leviticus 19:1-4.
   - What connections do you notice between reverence for parents, keeping God's Sabbath, and rejecting idols?
   - Why might God regard the way we treat our parents as part of our response to Him? How can honoring family become an act of worship?
5. Read Romans 12:17-18 and Colossians 3:12-14.
   - How can we honor family when relationships are strained or painful?
   - What might it look like to show appropriate honor without pretending that wrong behavior is right?
   - What is one practical way we can honor God in the way we relate to our family this week?

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SERIES 6 | SESSION 5



ANNUAL VISION 2026

VALUE

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 20:13-14; Deuteronomy 5:17-18

KEY IDEAS

THEME

God values respect.

LIFE CHANGE OBJECTIVE

We would respect what God respects.

VALUABLE CREATURES

"In biblical terms, the sanctity of human life is rooted and grounded in creation. Mankind is not viewed as a cosmic accident but as the product of a carefully executed creation by an eternal God. Human dignity is derived from God. Man as a finite, dependent, contingent creature is assigned a high value by his Creator.

Creation in the image of God is what sets humans apart from all other creatures. The stamp of the image and likeness of God connects God and mankind uniquely. Though there is no biblical warrant for seeing man as godlike, there is a high dignity associated with this unique relationship to the Creator.

Man may no longer be pure, but he is still human. Insofar as we are still human, we retain the image of God in the wider sense. We are still valuable creatures."

—R.C. Sproul
What Do We Mean When We Speak of the "Sanctity of Human Life"?

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we respect human life.

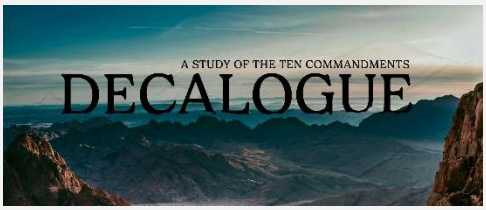
GROUP DISCUSSION

Session 5: God Values Respect

1. Read Exodus 20:13 and Genesis 1:26–27.
   - What do these passages reveal about the value God places on human life?
   - Why does being created in God's image give every person inherent dignity and worth?
   - How should this understanding influence the way we treat others?
2. Read Matthew 5:21–24 and 1 John 3:14–15.
   - How do these passages expand our understanding of the commandment against murder?
   - What connections do these passages make between anger, hatred, and our treatment of others?
   - How can we demonstrate respect for human life in our everyday attitudes, words, and relationships?
3. Read Exodus 20:14, Genesis 2:18–24 and Matthew 19:4–6.
   - What do these passages reveal about God's design and purpose for marriage?
   - Why do you think God places the command against adultery immediately after the command against murder?
   - How does understanding marriage as a union established by God change the way we regard and protect it?
4. Read Matthew 5:27–30 and Hebrews 13:4.
   - How does Jesus expand the command against adultery to include the desires of our hearts?
   - What attitudes and actions help protect the sanctity of marriage; how can we demonstrate greater respect for marriage?

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SERIES 6 | SESSION 6



ANNUAL VISION 2026

VALUE

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 20:15-16; Deuteronomy 5:19-20

KEY IDEAS

THEME

God values integrity in word and deed.

LIFE CHANGE OBJECTIVE

We would be integrous.

LYING AND STEALING

"Lying and stealing are behaviors that can have far-reaching consequences, affecting not only our personal relationships but also the fabric of society as a whole. We've all been lied to or had something stolen from us at some point, and it's understandable to feel frustrated and betrayed when someone breaks our trust. But dishonesty and theft don't just hurt individuals; they can also erode societal trust and economic stability.

When we act with honesty and transparency, we demonstrate our commitment to doing what's right, even when it's difficult. This not only inspires others but also sets a precedent for future interactions. As a result, trust grows, and relationships become stronger and more resilient. By creating a culture that values truth and integrity, we can collectively break the cycle of dishonesty and build a foundation for long-term success and growth."

—Michael Bennett
Consequences of Lying and Stealing on Individuals & Society

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we act with integrity.

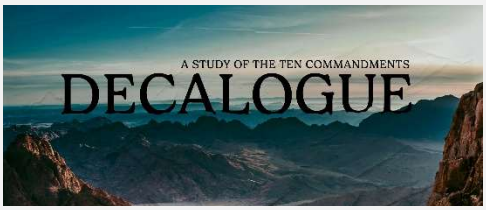
GROUP DISCUSSION

Session 6: God Values Integrity

1. Read Exodus 20:15, Leviticus 19:13 and Ephesians 4:28.
   - What different forms of stealing are addressed in these passages?
   - What are some less obvious ways we might compromise our integrity in financial matters, at work, or in our dealings with others?
2. Read Exodus 20:16, Proverbs 12:17–22 and Ephesians 4:25.
   - What do these passages reveal about the importance God places on truthfulness?
   - How can dishonesty damage a person's reputation, relationships, or trust?
   - Is it possible to compromise the truth without telling an outright lie?
3. Read Psalm 51:6–12 and Proverbs 11:3.
   - What do these passages reveal about the relationship between integrity and the condition of our hearts?
   - How can we cultivate the kind of character that remains faithful to God's standards even when no one is watching?
4. Read Luke 19:1–10 and 1 John 1:8–9.
   - How did Zacchaeus demonstrate genuine repentance through his actions?
   - What is the difference between admitting wrongdoing and taking responsibility for it?
   - When we have compromised our integrity, what steps can we take to restore trust and make things right?
5. Read Luke 16:10–12 and Proverbs 20:6–7.
   - What do these passages teach about the relationship between faithfulness in small matters and trustworthiness in greater responsibilities?
   - How does consistent integrity affect our relationships and our witness to others?

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SERIES 6 | SESSION 7



ANNUAL VISION 2026

VALUE

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21

KEY IDEAS

THEME

God values thanksgiving memory.

LIFE CHANGE OBJECTIVE

We would replace coveting with thanksgiving.

CONTENTMENT

"There is a disturbing amount of discontent among Christians. And it's not just material discontent. It's discontent with life partners. It's discontent with family circumstances. It's discontent with the way you look or the way you're shaped or the way your circumstances are falling out in life. There is just this incessant beleaguering assault to make us discontent. More things, we think, will make us content. Different circumstances will make us content: living in a different place, having a different job, being surrounded by different people, having a better environment, having a different partner, having freedom from problems. So there is this brooding discontent, this lack of satisfaction in the provision that God has given to us. And this is a very serious sin. Discontent with the lot that God has chosen for us is a serious sin. The Word of God overtly and specifically calls us to contentment."

—John MacArthur
Contentment

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we are content with what God has given us.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Session 7: God Values Thanksgiving

1. Read Exodus 20:17 and Deuteronomy 5:21.
   - What does it mean to covet something that belongs to another person? How is coveting different from simply wanting something?
   - Why do you think God concludes the Ten Commandments by addressing our desires rather than just our outward behavior?
2. Read Joshua 7:20–26 and James 1:14–15.
   - How did Achan describe the progression from seeing something desirable to taking what God had forbidden? What consequences followed his decision?
   - How can unchecked desires lead us to compromise our values and damage our relationships with others?
3. Read Leviticus 23:39–43 and Deuteronomy 16:13–15.
   - What were the Israelites instructed to remember and celebrate during the Feast of Tabernacles?
   - How might remembering God's past faithfulness help protect us from covetousness and discontentment?
   - What are some blessings we tend to overlook because we are focused on what we do not have?
4. Read Philippians 4:6–9, 11–13.
   - How was Paul able to remain content regardless of his circumstances?
   - How can we cultivate an attitude of thanksgiving even when life is difficult or our desires remain unfulfilled?
5. Read Deuteronomy 5:28–29 and Ezekiel 36:26–27.
   - What did God desire from the hearts of His people beyond their outward promises of obedience?
   - How does His promise to give His people a new heart and His Spirit address that need?

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