

# A LOVING LAW

Ten Commandments  
Exodus 20:1–21  
1446 BC

## OVERVIEW

### BIBLE TRUTH

God guides and protects us.

### BIBLE VERSE

Love the LORD your God, and . . . serve Him with all your heart. Deuteronomy 11:13

### LEARNER GOAL

I understand that God knows all that I need and that He guides and protects me.

### LAW & GOSPEL

We reject God's Law as we go our own way, failing to love God and to love others before ourselves.

**Jesus Christ kept the Law perfectly on our behalf, and He guides us to love Him and our neighbor.**

### SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Months into their wilderness wanderings, the Israelites arrive in the wilderness of Sinai. God comes to the mountain in clouds and thunder—fire and smoke—as He establishes His covenant with His people through Moses, His chosen intermediary. There on the mountain, God gives Moses His Ten Commandments.

## LESSON PREP

**BASIC** Read Exodus 20:1–21 and notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

**MORE TIME** Review Questions 15–23 and 93–102 in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

**IN DEPTH** Read the rest of the account in Exodus 16–19. There is a bit of a jump chronologically between the crossing of the Red Sea and this story. Read also Exodus 32–34 to learn about what happens after this.

## SUPPLY LIST

### FOR THIS LESSON

- Poster paper or whiteboard
- Dice
- Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017)

### FOR EVERY LESSON

- Device with downloaded music
- Pens or pencils
- Student copies of *Explore Bible Guidebook*
- Bible
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Supplies for bonus activities
- [cph.org/digitalcontent](http://cph.org/digitalcontent)



### LEADER NOTE

If students arrive at different times, have them start on their “Top Ten Rules” list in pairs or small groups until everyone arrives.



### GUIDEBOOKS

Hand out student copies of the *Explore Bible Guidebook* and turn to Lesson 9.



### LEADER NOTE

Bring your catechism to class to use as reference if your students have questions about the Commandments and what they mean.



### BONUS ACTIVITY

Check the bonus activity “Poster” on the back page for creative way to extend this lesson.

# LAUNCH

**PRAY** Dear Lord, bless us as we gather to study Your Word today. Help us to learn how You guide and protect us. In Your name we pray. Amen.

**SING** “We Are in God’s House Today”  
“We All Believe in One True God”  
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

**SAY** If you were in charge of making all the rules for happy living, what would they be? Let’s see if we can make our own “Top Ten Rules.” List student responses where they can be seen.

# LEARN

Some of your students may have heard this story before; some may not know it at all. Make a KWL chart (Know, Want to Learn, Learned) chart on the board or a big sheet of paper. Start with the “Know” section and write down everything the students think they know or remember about this story. Then go to the next column and write down what the students want to learn about the Ten Commandments.

## READ “A LOVING LAW”

Read the Bible narrative aloud to your students, or ask volunteers to take turns reading sections.

## DO SOMETHING

**FOR OLDER STUDENTS** Read the section of the narrative that gives the Commandments. Make a numbered list on the board and write each commandment by the appropriate number. If you have strong readers, try reading this section directly from Scripture.

**FOR A REVIEW GAME** To learn and review the individual commandments, let students take turns rolling a pair of dice and saying the commandment that corresponds to the number that appears on the dice. If an eleven or twelve is rolled, use the individual numbers on each of the dice. You can practice in a variety of ways. The student who rolls the dice can say the commandment or another student

can say the commandment. For each commandment that comes up, take some time to talk about what it means and what keeping that commandment looks like in their everyday lives.

**FOR ACTIVE LEARNERS** The Law can be summed up in these two commandments (Matthew 22:37–40): Love God and love your neighbor. Use the instructions for the dice review game. This time when you identify the commandment, as a group point up to God if the commandment is number one, two, or three (Love God) and point to the other people in class for the other commandments (Love your neighbor).

## KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Law is a gift, meant not merely to restrict us but to keep us safe and help us live in peace and harmony.
- The Law shows us our sin and our need for a Savior. We can never keep the Law perfectly; only Jesus did that.
- We cannot earn our way to heaven by keeping the Law. We try to keep the Law because we love God and in response to His mercy for and compassion on us, not as the way to get to heaven.

# LIVE

## EXPLORE THE CONTEXT

Before you start the discussion questions, use the *Explore Bible Guidebook* for more interesting facts about what the Israelites were doing before and after they crossed the Red Sea.

## TALK ABOUT IT

- ▷ What would happen if we didn't have rules for living?
- ▷ How do these rules show God's love for us?
- ▷ Even though we know that God gives us these Commandments out of love for us, why do we still rebel against them and do what we want? (Our sinful nature)
- ▷ Can any of us keep these laws perfectly?

## SAY THE BIBLE VERSE TOGETHER

Love the LORD your God, and . . . serve Him with all your heart. Deuteronomy 11:13

## READ OR LISTEN ON A BIBLE APP

- John 1:17
- Matthew 22:37-40
- Matthew 5:17

## KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Talk about how these New Testament verses help us understand what Jesus has done for us.
- Revisit the KWL chart you made at the beginning of class. Fill in the "Learned" section of the chart together. Go back and check the "Know" section of the chart. Was everything that you thought you knew correct?

## CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

As you complete the "Learned" section of the KWL chart with students, listen for students to make connections to the Bible Truth for this lesson.

# LEAVE

**SAY** Praise God for the gift of God's loving Law. God knew that we needed rules to live by, and praise God that He also sent His Son, our Savior, Jesus, to fulfill the Law perfectly in our place.

**SING** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"  
"The Lord's Prayer"  
Music can be found in the digital resource center.

**PRAY** Thank You, heavenly Father, for sending Your Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life under the Law when we couldn't. Help us to love You and love our neighbor. In Your name we pray. Amen.



### DOWNLOADABLE PAGE

Extend learning by printing the downloadable activity page, found in the digital resource center. See the back page of this guide for details.



### CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus kept the Law perfectly for us and then took our punishment on the cross. Jesus helps us love God and love our neighbor.

## DOWNLOADABLE PAGE HELPS

Make copies of the downloadable activity page by accessing the digital resource center. Use the helps below as a guide.

### FIRST TABLE WORDS

God  
gods  
misuse  
Sabbath

### SECOND TABLE WORDS

others  
honor  
hurt  
commit  
take  
good  
house  
covet

This activity can be done as a whole group, in pairs, or in small groups. Read aloud sections and words. For students who struggle with writing, write the answer for them or let them choose from index cards that you've prepared prior to class.

**A LOVING LAW—TEN COMMANDMENTS**  
Unit 1, Lesson 9

<b>Ten Commandments</b>	<b>Word Bank</b>
<b>Directions:</b> Fill in the blanks in the two tablets with a word from the word bank.	God            take            misuse honor        good            others Sabbath      gods            house commit       hurt            covet

**The First Table**  
*Our relationship with*

Matthew 22:37

**1**  
You shall have no other \_\_\_\_\_

**2**  
You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ God's name.

**3**  
You shall keep the \_\_\_\_\_ Day and God's Word holy.

**The Second Table**  
*Our relationship with*

Matthew 22:39

**4**  
You shall \_\_\_\_\_ parents and other authorities.

**5**  
You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ or harm neighbors.

**6**  
You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ adultery.

**7**  
You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ things that don't belong to you.

**8**  
You shall only speak truth about a neighbor and \_\_\_\_\_.

**9**  
You shall not covet your neighbor's \_\_\_\_\_.

**10**  
You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ anything that belongs to your neighbor.



## CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

### IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God has made me His creature, created to love Him and serve my neighbor.

### CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I have been created to follow God's will: to love Him and serve my neighbor.

## GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

*See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.*

### ADULT

I can paraphrase God's intent for how His human creatures should love Him and love one another.

### YOUTH

I can cite examples of how God guides and protects us.

### ELEMENTARY

I understand that God knows all that I need and that He guides and protects me.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God's rules are good.

## BONUS ACTIVITIES

### POSTER

Times may vary

Make a poster with the Ten Commandments. Use icons or drawings to illustrate these rules for living that God has given us. Try to illustrate each Commandment with as few words as possible.

### IN YOUR OWN WORDS

15 minutes

To help students understand the Commandments better, have students rewrite them in the language of today.

### MOVIE CLIP

15 minutes

Show a clip of the 1956 movie *The Ten Commandments*. Compare the movie version to the real version in Scripture.