

Small Group Guide: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS - Only One

Opening Question What is something small—like coffee, music, a favorite snack, or a certain routine—that helps your day feel more “in order”?

Opening Prayer *God, thank You for gathering us together. Help us to understand Your Word and to see Your commands as an expression of Your love, not as a way to earn Your approval. As we talk together, show us what it means to put You at the center of our lives. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

God rescued Israel before He gave them the Ten Commandments.

Pastor Dan emphasized that God delivered the Israelites from Egypt before they ever received the law at Mount Sinai.

The commandments are confirmation of relationship, not a condition for relationship.

God’s rules were not given so Israel could earn His love. They were given because God had already established a relationship with them.

The first two commandments are foundational.

“You shall have no other gods before me” and “You shall not make for yourself an idol” shape how we understand and live out the rest of the commandments.

God wants to be our one and only source.

In the ancient world, people turned to different gods for different needs. God called Israel to look to Him for every part of life—provision, healing, protection, guidance, and identity.

Recognition comes before obedience.

If obedience comes before recognizing God as Lord, it can become religion, performance, or an attempt to control God.

Idols are not always statues.

Today, idols can include work, money, hobbies, family, success, approval, comfort, or anything else we organize our lives around instead of God.

God is not trying to make us merely “good”; He is trying to make us free.

His commands are not meant to rob us of joy but to keep us from returning to bondage.

Our faithfulness can bless future generations.

Pastor Dan highlighted that choices of obedience and trust can have an impact beyond our own lifetime.

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Exodus 20:1-3.**
God begins by saying, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt.” Why is it important that God reminds Israel of their rescue before giving them commands?
2. **Pastor Dan said, “The rules and laws of God are not a condition of His love, but confirmation of His love.”** How does that statement change the way people might view the Ten Commandments?
3. **Read Exodus 20:3.**
In Israel’s culture, people were used to having many “gods” for different needs. What are some things people today may turn to for security, comfort, approval, or control?
4. **Read Exodus 20:4-5.**
Why do you think God warns His people not to make idols or images? What might it look like today to try to make God “manageable”?
5. **Pastor Dan said, “Recognition is more important than obedience.”** What do you think he meant by that? How can obedience become unhealthy if it is disconnected from relationship with God?
6. **Pastor Dan used the image of God being the “hub” of the wheel rather than just one “spoke.”** What is the difference between making God one important part of life and making Him the center of life?
7. **Read Exodus 20:5-6.**
This passage contrasts the consequences of sin with God’s love shown to a thousand generations. What are some ways faithfulness to God can positively influence others?
8. **Pastor Dan said, “God is not trying to make you good. God is trying to make you free.”** How do God’s commands help protect us from spiritual, emotional, or relational bondage?

Practical Applications (Choose one or two.)

1. **Ask, “What is at the center?”**
This week, reflect on what gets the best of your time, energy, attention, and resources.
2. **Bring your needs to God first.**
Before turning to worry, control, advice, money, or distractions, pause and pray about the situation.
3. **Identify one modern idol.**
Ask God to reveal one thing that may be competing with Him for first place in your life.
4. **Reorder one priority.**
Choose one practical way to make God the “hub” this week—such as prayer, Scripture, worship, generosity, Sabbath rest, or serving someone.
5. **Pray for future generations.**
Spend time praying for your family, children, grandchildren, younger believers, or people you influence.

Memory Verse for This Week

Exodus 20:2-3

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."

Closing Prayer *Dear Lord, thank You for rescuing us and inviting us into relationship with You. Help us not to reduce faith to performance or try to keep You in a manageable box. Show us anything we have placed before You, and teach us to trust You as the center of our lives. Lead us into the freedom You want for us. In Jesus' name, amen.*