

Small Group Guide: THE TEN COMMANDMENTS - Being Good

Opening Question What is one rule from your childhood that made no sense to you at the time, but makes more sense now?

Opening Prayer *Lord, thank You for this time together. Help us understand Your Word and Your heart more clearly. Remind us that we do not earn Your love by performing, but we receive Your love through trusting Jesus. Guide our conversation and help us encourage one another. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

God's acceptance is received, not earned. Pastor Dan emphasized that we cannot "behave our way" into a relationship with God. We enter by trusting Him.

The Ten Commandments were not given as a condition for relationship, but as confirmation of relationship. God rescued Israel first, then gave them the commandments.

God introduced Himself personally: "I am the Lord your God." Before giving the commandments, God reminded Israel that He had already delivered them from Egypt.

The Passover points to trust. Israel placed blood on the doorposts as an act of faith, trusting God to rescue them from judgment.

The Lord's Supper points us back to Jesus' rescue. Just as the Passover lamb's blood marked deliverance, Jesus' blood brings forgiveness and salvation.

Guilt does not transform the heart; gratitude does. When we understand what Christ has done for us, obedience becomes a response of love, not a desperate attempt to earn approval.

We do not clean ourselves up before coming to God. We come to Him as we are, and He rescues, forgives, and makes us new.

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Exodus 20:1-3.** Before God gives the first commandment, what does He remind Israel about? Why is it important that God begins with rescue before rules?
2. **Pastor Dan said, “The Ten Commandments are not given as a condition of a relationship with God, but rather confirmation of a relationship.”** How does that statement shape the way we view obedience?
3. **Read Exodus 12:7, 12-14.** What were the Israelites commanded to do with the blood of the lamb, and what did God promise to do when He saw it?
4. **In the sermon, Pastor Dan connected the Passover to trust.** What does the blood on the doorposts teach us about faith and dependence on God?
5. **Read Romans 5:8.** What does this verse reveal about God’s love for us? How does it challenge the idea that we must “get good enough” before coming to Him?
6. **Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.** How does the Lord’s Supper help us remember that salvation is based on Jesus’ sacrifice rather than our performance?
7. Why do you think many people naturally assume that God’s acceptance must be earned by being good or following rules?
8. **Pastor Dan said that guilt creates resistance, but gratitude motivates the heart.** What are some ways gratitude can lead to healthier obedience in the Christian life?

Practical Applications (Choose one or two.)

1. **Start each day remembering grace.** Before focusing on what you need to do for God, pause and thank Him for what He has already done for you in Christ.
2. **Memorize Romans 5:8.** Let this verse remind you that God loved you while you were still a sinner —not after you had everything figured out.
3. **Identify one area where you may be living from performance instead of trust.** Ask God to help you rest in His grace and obey from gratitude.
4. **Reflect on the Lord’s Supper.** Take a few minutes this week to thank Jesus for His broken body and shed blood, and remember that He is your rescuer.
5. **Encourage someone with the truth of grace.** If someone feels like they need to clean up their life before coming to God, remind them that Jesus invites us to come as we are and trust Him.

Memory Verse for This Week

Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Closing Prayer *Jesus, thank You for loving us before we ever knew how to obey You. Thank You for rescuing us through Your death and resurrection. Help us stop striving to earn Your acceptance and instead live from the joy of already being loved. Teach us to obey You with grateful hearts this week. In Jesus’ name, amen.*