

Eight Essential Bible Stories
Living the Message 2024-2025
November 2024 Study Guide
Mount Olivet Lutheran Church

November: Exodus 20 – *God's chief desire is that we love each other* with Pastor Lose

[Click here to watch the video.](#) Or vimeo.com/1024934443

Opening Prayer

Dear God, bless each one who comes to this study. Open our ears, hearts, and minds so that we may experience your presence in our lives more deeply as we learn how you have been present to your people in ages past. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Focus Statement

Across the centuries, various people and cultures have shared their sense of God (or gods) via myths, commandments, prohibitions, ceremonial celebrations, and more. In this regard, the story of the Ten Commandments feels like many other attempts to describe God's will for God's people. At the same time, and by looking a little more closely, you discover a God very different from what other communities have imagined... and maybe different from what we imagine! Come to discover a God unlike all others!

Reading: [Exodus 20](#)

Questions

1. What was one of your initial takeaways from Pastor Lose's presentation?
2. Word vs Commandment – how do those two terms reflect how you've viewed the 10 Commandments throughout your life?
3. Read/discuss Exodus 19, particularly verses 7-8. Does this chapter change your thoughts on the 10 Commandments in Chapter 20? How?

So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. The people all answered as one: 'Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.' Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.
4. Think about/discuss the distinction between the two Tables of the 10 Commandments. What seems most important in tending our relationship with God (First Table)? And why do you think the commandments stress so fully taking care of each other (Second Table)?
5. "In every negative lies a hidden positive." Read through the 10 Commandments, asking what do each of these commandments make possible? What do they create?
 1. I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

2. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.
3. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
4. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.
5. Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.
6. Given our focus this month on the 10 Commandments, how do you now hear Jesus' words in John 13:34: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."
7. How do you answer the question: what is God's chief desire for us?

Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for being so invested in us and our relationships with you and with each other. Send us out confident of your love for us that we may better love each other. Amen.

Next Month

Mark 7 – God became one of us. Really!

In-person: Tuesday, December 3, 6:30-7:30pm, Minneapolis Campus Room 207

Video will be emailed out Monday, December 2

Questions?

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