

Lesson 2: Overview of the Commandments and 1st Commandment TEACHER PREPARATION

Watch Pastor Buetow's Video Catechism and answer the questions in the comments.

[Video Catechism: Overview of the Ten Commandments](#)
[Video Catechism: 1st Commandment](#)

TEACHER GUIDE

Target Questions:

What is the law?

What is an idol?

Link to presentation slides:

Confirmation Year 1: [Lesson 2 Slides](#)

Opening:

Sing together [These Are the Holy Ten Commands](#)

LSB 581

Memory Work

Recite the entire 6 chief parts of the Catechism

Brain Break Time!

Suggestion:

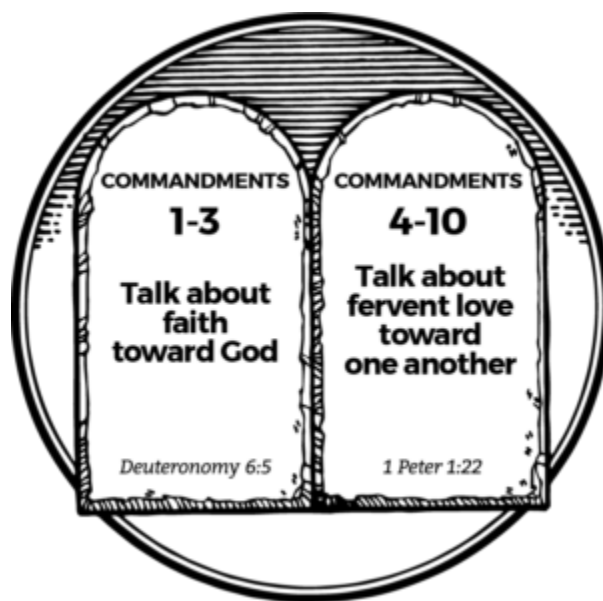
Make it rain

Conjure up a rainstorm! Sitting or standing at a desk or table, have kids tap 1 finger on the desk, then 2, then 3, then 4, then their whole hand until you all feel like you're in the middle of a deluge. Work your way backward from 5 down to 1 as the storm ebbs away.

Instruction/Discussion

Where is God's law found?

God's law is found in the 10 Commandments. The 10 Commandments are laid out in two tables, each of which teach us something. The first table of the law is commandments 1-3 and faith toward God, or how we are to relate to and love God. The second table is fervent love toward our neighbor, or how we relate to and love our neighbor. So, an easy way to remember it might be Table 1: Love for God, Table 2: Love for Neighbor.



What is the law?

Read Romans 3:20

God's dos and don'ts that teach us to know our sins.

What is the gospel?

Read John 3:16

The good news of what God has done for us in Christ Jesus.

How many types of Law are there?

There are two types of law.

Natural Law

- Written on our hearts
- As part of our created, human nature
- Basic similarities in morality across history and cultures
- Because our hearts, minds, and bodies are corrupted by sin, our knowledge of Natural Law is incomplete/limited and broken

Revealed Law

- God gave to Moses in the 10 Commandments
- Jesus and the Apostles explain even more of the Law
- The New Testament reveals the full depth of our sinfulness

How is the Law a gift from God?

Read James 1:17

God is a gift-giver. All good gifts come from Him

The Ten Commandments help us identify the gifts we've been given and show us how to protect the gifts He gives.

What does love have to do with the Law?

Because sin clouds our perspective and makes us naturally selfish, the Lord uses His Law to show us what faith and love look like.

The Law isn't about obeying a bunch of random rules or God just ruining our fun. It's about love- for God and for our neighbors

How does God use the Law for good?

- **Curb**
 - Read Romans 13:1-5
 - A curb on the street shows us where to drive and where not to drive. This use of the law curbs behavior - shows us right and wrong through law but also through conscience. If we do not follow it, there are consequences.
- **Who is this use of the law primarily for?**
 - Unbelievers
- **Why?**

- This use of the law is done only with the threat of punishment - not love. It is given that even if you don't come to faith, it restricts actions.

- **Mirror**
 - Read Romans 3:20
 - Like a mirror shows us our reflection, the mirror of the law accuses us of sin and shows us that we are guilty of it
- **Who is this use of the law primarily for?**
 - Everyone
- **Why?**
 - This use of the law drives us towards God's gospel - it shows us our sin and guilt.

- **Guide**
 - Read Psalm 119:105
 - Shows us how things can go better. Shows us what are good works and what are not good works. Guides the Christian to do those good works in love.
- **Who is this use of the law primarily for?**
 - Christians
- **Why?**
 - This use of the law is about love. It defines what love for God and neighbor look like. We desire God's gifts and don't want to see our neighbor hurt, so we attempt to follow these commandments (the law) out of love for our God and neighbor.

Think, Pair, Share

Put students in groups of three if possible. Have each student discuss a real-life example they have seen of each use of the law. Each student may take one use of the law.

What is sin?

- **Original**
 - Read Romans 5:12

- Read Romans 7:18
- Original sin is the sin all people are born with, the sin that is passed down to us from the fall.
- **Actual**
 - Read Galatians 5:19-21
 - Actual sin are the acts - thoughts, words, and deeds - which we engage in that are sinful

What is the 1st Commandment?

You shall have no other gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love and trust in God above all things.

What is the gift of the 1st Commandment?

Read Exodus 6:7-8

God gives us himself "I will be your God"

Who is God?

Read the Apostles' Creed

We learn who God is in the Apostles' Creed. He is Father - creator, Son - Redeemer and Holy Spirit - Sanctifier. The Holy Trinity.

Do all religions really worship the same god? What has God revealed about himself in the Scriptures?

No, all religions do NOT worship the same God. In scripture, God has revealed himself to be the Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is the only true God and the God which we worship.

What is a god or an idol?

A god or an idol is anything or anyone that you put your trust in and look to for good or salvation.

What are common gods or idols?

Answers will vary, but some possible answers include:

- Money

- Stuff
- Human achievement, goodness, skills, smarts (self)
- Happiness
- Other religions or deities (Baal, Allah, Krishna, etc)
- *What else?*

Can idols save you?

Read Matthew 6:19-21

No, these are all earthly things. The only thing that saves is in Heaven - Christ crucified for you.

The meaning of the 1st Commandment says “we should fear and love God.” What does it mean to fear God? (Discuss?)

He's God and He is all-powerful. We should be afraid of His judgement and wrath against sin and unbelief. He can wipe out the whole world with a flood (though He won't) or send down fire and brimstone against us and our sinfulness. That is something we should respectfully fear.

Fear and love do go together: You love your parents, but you can also be afraid of how they'll punish you for disobeying them -even at the same time!

How does breaking the 1st Commandment tie into breaking all of the others?

Any time you break a commandment, you are putting your faith and your trust in something or someone above God. Therefore, by breaking any other commandment, you are also breaking the 1st.

Can we fulfill this commandment? What do we need?

Read 1 John 1:8

No, we cannot fulfill this commandment. We need the Truth, which is Jesus Christ, our Triune God.

Closing

Sing together [Water, Blood and Spirit Crying](#)
LSB 597

Homework

Watch [Pastor Simek's weekly video](#)

Discussion questions with parents

Supplemental Activities

If you have extra time, try some of these activities to continue your learning!

- Watch and discuss HT's *Largely Catechized Life*, "Episode 2: What is a God?" with Pastor Harrison Goodman
- Have your students share what they talked about with their parents this week when working through the discussion questions
- [Quizlet - The Game of the Law](#)
- [Kahoot](#)

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