

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR THE HOME

FROM THE MESSAGES OF ADRIAN ROGERS



The Ten Commandments for the Home (Bible Study)

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
WEEK 1	
God Alone ... “You shall have no other gods before Me.”	3
WEEK 2	
True Worship ... “You shall not make for yourself a carved image.”	17
WEEK 3	
God’s Holy Name ... “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.”	31
WEEK 4	
Rest ... “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”	45
WEEK 5	
Honor Parents ... “Honor your father and your mother.”	59
WEEK 6	
Always Choose Life ... “You shall not murder.”	73
WEEK 7	
Devotion in Marriage ... “You shall not commit adultery.” ...	87
WEEK 8	
Industry and Integrity ... “You shall not steal.”	101
WEEK 9	
Truth ... “You shall not bear false witness.”	115
WEEK 10	
Contentment ... “You shall not covet.”	129
LISTEN NOW	142
DISCUSSION GUIDE	143

INTRODUCTION

LIVE THE ABUNDANT LIFE!

The majority of Americans no longer believe in absolute truth. According to the American World Inventory in 2020, only 43% of those who identify as born-again Christians still embrace absolute truth. We live in a generation that has lost its fixed standards, its compass, and its anchor. We now have morality by majority, and the result is chaos where every person does what he thinks is right. It is not an issue of left or right; it is an issue of right or wrong. There is a God, and He has given us His Ten Commandments.


The best tool we have for teaching our children truth is instruction from the Ten Commandments. When God gave these commandments to His people, He instructed them to teach them to their children in their homes. They are useful at school, in the government, in business, and they apply to all of these, but God intended for children to learn these truths at home from their parents.

We must begin early by instructing our children as we walk through everyday life. We teach these commandments purposefully, consistently, precept by precept. We model how to live according to God's Word. We ask forgiveness when we fail to keep them. We use them, not to teach children how to live perfectly, but to show our children how much we need Jesus and the salvation He provides.

The commandments are not just telling us what we shouldn't do, they are telling us what we should do in order to find life and live it abundantly. Each week of this study focuses on one of the Ten Commandments and prepares us to teach these commandments in our homes.

WANT MORE?

The audio messages by Pastor Adrian Rogers from which this study is derived are linked using the QR code at the end of this study.



**"You shall have
no other gods
before Me."**

EXODUS 20:3

WEEK 1

GOD ALONE

■ INTRODUCTION

The world shamelessly and openly promotes things that go against God's Commandments. The entertainment industry celebrates sexual promiscuity and violence. Many of us are numbed by scrolling through social media and streaming shows and movies. Even those who attend church do not want to hear messages that challenge their moral choices. Many pastors feel they can't preach about repentance without alienating their audiences.

The world questions the existence of absolute truth, and these ideas have crept into our churches. Our young people do not understand or believe the truth of God. Many fail to understand that without the truth of God, there is no goodness.

However, as believers, we shouldn't be marketing religion and pandering to people's desires. The world needs to hear what God says. William Bennett, former Secretary of Education, said this, "There's a clear sense from the American people that this is a problem that has deep roots. It's a problem of social disintegration. It is a problem about values." The best values for any society are found in The Ten Commandments. This week we are going to look at the first commandment and how we can live it out in our homes.

"I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me" (Deuteronomy 5:6-7).

■ PRAY OVER IT

Dear God, I see the spiritual battles taking place in our world. I know our home is the first place the battle is either won or lost. I want my family to honor God, and I want to raise children who know You and honor You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 1

WE NEED THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

■ PONDER IT

The Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20 and in Deuteronomy 5, but first let's explore God's explanation of why and how to keep and teach these commandments.

Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged (Deuteronomy 6:1-2).

God promises that homes and nations grounded in these commandments will thrive. Instead of just letting our children decide what they want to believe, God says parents are to instruct children at a young age and pass down God's commandments.

Many people may feel the Ten Commandments are no longer relevant to our modern way of life. But a society only functions well if it is guided by moral people. No country or home can thrive without a strong moral foundation. Here is what God commands fathers and mothers to do in the home:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you

lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

The Jews consider this the most important passage in the Book of Deuteronomy, if not in the entire Bible. It's called the Shema; Orthodox Jews still repeat this at least twice a day and whenever they meet together.

You may be dismayed that the Ten Commandments are no longer posted in public places such as in our schools and our courthouses. But are they posted in your home? Do you know them? Do you teach them to your children? God told the Israelites to put these laws upon the doorposts of their houses so they could see them whenever they entered or exited their homes.

God gave the responsibility for teaching the Ten Commandments to fathers and mothers. It is not the responsibility of the school or the government. It is the responsibility of parents and grandparents to see that these commandments are handed down. The great problem in the world today is that fathers and mothers have failed to pass down these truths from one generation to another. God's primary plan for His kingdom is to supercharge the home with spiritual truth and godliness so that these truths will pass from one generation to another.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- Where do you see a lack of morality in the world around you?
- What are you doing to teach or remember the Ten Commandments in your home? What did your parents teach you about God?

The Ten Commandments are
not obsolete; they're absolute.

ADRIAN ROGERS

DAY 2

THE GREAT REVELATION: ONE LORD

■ PONDER IT

To God's people who had just left Egypt, the idea of one god was a great revelation. The Egyptians and the cultures all around them believed in multiple gods and worshiped each one differently. But now the Israelites were to worship one God, one Jehovah, one Lord.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!
(Deuteronomy 6:4).

Everybody believes in something, and many believe in some kind of god. But this is not talking about choosing one god; it's about Jehovah God, the One who made everything (see Deuteronomy 5:6-7).

Scripture declares the fact of God. You might think the first commandment would be "You shall not be an atheist." But the Bible doesn't argue about the existence of God.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth
(Genesis 1:1).

The Bible simply states God exists and only gives one verse to the idea of atheism.

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good (Psalm 14:1).

Scriptures declare the fact of God. When you try to teach a child that there is no God, the argument becomes very complicated. One atheistic father was trying to teach his child that there was no God, and when he finished his long, drawn-out explanation, the little child looked at him and said, "Do you think God knows that we don't believe in Him?" Knowing that God exists is innate in the human heart. We want to believe there is something bigger in the world than ourselves.

Creation displays the hand of God. When we talk about the laws of science, we are actually talking about the laws of God that science discovered. Scientists are no more capable of creating those laws than Columbus was capable of creating North America. They simply discovered what was already there. Yet public schools and higher education relentlessly insist that God had no part in the creation of people. They believe that people emerged from the primordial ooze without purpose or meaning.

Faith discovers the existence of one God. An atheist and a believer can debate the existence of God, but both positions require faith. The atheist believes by faith that there is no God because he has no definitive proof. The Christian believes there is a God even though he has no definitive proof. But belief in God is supported by internal and external evidence: creation and the witness of God in a believer's heart. It's not a head issue; it's a heart issue. The fool who says in his heart that there is no God doesn't have an intellectual problem that can be argued away. Fools have a moral problem because they do not want God to rule over them.

God created you and wired you so that at the right time, your heart will respond to the fact of God like your eye responds to light. When your eye is right, it will see. When your ear is right, it responds to sound. When your heart is in the right place, it will respond to God.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- When did you first become aware of the existence of God? When did you choose to believe in God by faith?
- If someone asked you why you believe in God, what would you say?

A person who denies facts is a
fool, and one who denies the
supreme fact is the supreme fool.

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DAY 3

THE GREAT RESPONSE: ONE LOVE

■ PONDER IT

Because God has revealed Himself through creation, we have only one great response.

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength (Deuteronomy 6:5).

The great response is to love God supremely with a sincere love. It's not enough to honor the Lord with your words; you must honor Him in your heart (see Matthew 15:8).

In your home, your children need to see you being passionate, emotional, and sincere about the things of God. Kids can easily spot a fake, and they know whether or not you love God sincerely.

We are also to love God with *selfless love*. When Deuteronomy 6:5 talks about your soul, it means your whole self. The total self needs to be given over to God. No area in your life is off limits to God. Your children will know that there is one Lord when they see your sincere and selfless love for God.

Your love is measured by two books in your home: your checkbook and your date book—your calendar and your bank account. Where you put your money and your time shows how much you love God.

In addition, we need to have a strong love. You're to love God with every inch, every ounce, every nerve, and every sinew of your body. He's not just talking about physical strength; He's talking about whatever strength you have—physical, spiritual, emotional, financial, or intellectual.

PUT IT IN WRITING

- Do your children see your sincere, selfless, and strong love for God? Why or why not?
- What did your parents love? What do your checkbook and your date book say about what you love?

Kids can spot a phony a mile away,
and it is the phoniness of parents
that turns kids off to things of God.

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THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY: ONE LAW

■ PONDER IT

There is one Lord. That's the great revelation that leads to one great response: one love. These two facts lead to one great responsibility: to follow one law.

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

Your home is to be a law school that teaches children the law of God. The professors in that home are mom and dad, but dad needs to take the lead.

The emphasis in Deuteronomy 6:2 is on the father. Many fathers have abandoned their role and left spiritual instruction up to the mothers, the youth group, or a Christian school. The father is God's person to lend stability, character, and strength to the home. Many dads are preoccupied with sports, business, and sex, and they've forgotten their God-given assignment to teach the Ten Commandments.

Fatherlessness is a major crisis. About 7.6 million children lived with their mothers only in 1968 compared to 15.3 million in 2020—that's more than doubled. "Fatherlessness is the engine that is driving our social problem," said David Blankenhorn, NFI Chairman and author of the book *Fatherless America*. This book points out that adolescent girls reared without fathers are much more likely to be sexually active than girls reared in two-parent families. Eighty percent of adolescents in psychiatric hospitals come from broken homes. Children from low-income, two-parent families academically outperform students from high-income, single-parent homes. Of all adolescent murderers, 72%

grew up without fathers. The presence of a father in the home has a measurable influence on children.

If you are a father who came from a broken home, or if you are a single woman trying to raise your children, please don't be discouraged. You can grow up and be a strong father in your own family. You can raise godly children, even if they don't have an earthly father. Everyone is responsible for teaching and training his or her children in the home.

The students of your law school are the children. They need to be enrolled early.

Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little (Isaiah 28:9-10).

The head of the school is the father, and the professors are the father and mother. The students are the children, and the curriculum is God's Ten Commandments.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- What role did your own father play in your spiritual education? When you look back, what impact did that have on you?
- What have you already taught your children about God? What are the things you do to intentionally help them learn the Ten Commandments?

Every child of God is a chip
off the old Block.

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DAY 5

HOW TO TEACH THE COMMANDMENTS IN THE HOME

■ PONDER IT

How do you teach the commandments in the home?

Convincingly—If you don't believe it, if you don't practice it, you'll never teach it. Don't send them to Sunday school, public school, or even Christian school and think you have done your duty. It must be in your heart. The only way to teach it convincingly is to be convinced yourself.

And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart (Deuteronomy 6:6).

Creatively—We teach children with Bible reading, Bible stories, Bible games, Bible memory, and Christian books.

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up (Deuteronomy 6:7).

Often parents wonder if it's okay to incentivize your children to read the Bible or memorize verses. The difference between a bribe and a reward is that a bribe is an inducement to do evil. A reward is recognition for doing good. God rewards, so parents should reward too.

Consistently—Diligently, over and over and over again, we are to teach the Word of God. You can't just talk about it one time and assume the topic is covered.

Conversationally—When the curiosity factor is high, answer the question or help them find the answer. Teaching the Bible doesn't have to be dull. It's caught as well as taught.

When your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God has commanded you?’ (Deuteronomy 6:20).

Conspicuously—The Bible needs to be a visible part of your home.

You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes (Deuteronomy 6:8).

Jewish people took this verse so literally that they built little boxes called phylacteries and put the Scripture in them. They took a ribbon or a piece of leather and tied it around their heads. If you watch a Jewish orthodox man have his quiet time with God, he’ll take out his phylactery, put it around his head, and tie it on. Then he’ll take the rest of the Scripture and wrap it around his right forearm. Then he will read and pray, not caring what anybody else thinks. Jewish people also put the phylactery on the door post.

Perhaps God meant for this to be taken literally, and perhaps He meant that it was between your eyes to show that all that you think is controlled by the Word of God. Perhaps when it’s on your right hand, it shows that all you do is controlled by the Word of God. Perhaps it’s on your doorpost so that everyone who enters will know that this house worships the one true God.

Compellingly—We’re to teach the Word of God so that our boys and girls will know that we believe what we believe.

■ PUT IT IN WRITING

- How do you tell your children about the story of what God has done in your own words?
- What is something you would like to keep doing with your children in this area? What is something you would like to start doing with your children?

You teach it convincingly
because you’re convinced.

DAY 6

NO RIVAL, REBUTTAL, OR REFUSAL

■ PRACTICE IT

God said:

I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me (Deuteronomy 5:6-7).

There is no rival—no other god. There is no rebuttal—no argument. Therefore, there is no refusal—whatever He says I'll do. If you have never tried living by faith, then you can't say that it won't work. The Ten Commandments are God's laws for living, and God's laws are not for our punishment but for our welfare. He loves us, and every time God says, "Thou shalt" He's saying, "Help yourself to happiness." Every time God says, "Thou shalt not" He's saying, "Don't harm yourself."

If you died today, would you go straight to Heaven because you have repented of your sin? Have you received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? You can't be saved by keeping the Ten Commandments; only by trusting the Lord Jesus.

If you would like to give your heart to Jesus, you can pray a prayer like this:

Dear God, I'm a sinner, and I'm lost. I need to be saved, and I want to be saved. Jesus, come into my heart, forgive my sin, and save me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

■ PROCLAIM IT

If you are married, spend some time speaking with your spouse about how you are teaching your children about God in your home. Pray and ask God to guide your conversation and your hearts. Ask Him to draw your children to Himself and pray that they would come to know Jesus for themselves.

If you prayed to receive Christ, please share your decision with another Christian you know or with your pastor. We would also like to hear about it, so that we can provide you with free resources to help you grow in your new faith. Please let us know by going to **lwf.org/discover-jesus**, scrolling down the page and clicking on *I BELIEVE*.

If you can be a Christian at home,
you can be a Christian anywhere.

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