

COMMANDMENTS



DEUTERONOMY 5:1-21, 6:4-9

Consider the commandments in theologian Brian McLaren's words from his book *We Make the Road by Walking*:

1. Put the God of liberation first, not the gods of slavery.
2. Don't reduce God to the manageable size of an idol – certainly not one made of wood and stone by human hands, and not one made by human minds of rituals and words, either, and certainly not one in whose name people are enslaved, dehumanized, or killed!
3. Do not use God for your own agendas by throwing around God's holy name. If you make a vow in God's name, keep it!
4. Honor the God of liberation by taking and giving everyone a day off. Don't keep the old 24/7 slave economy going.
5. Turn from self-centeredness by honoring your parents. (After all, honor is the basis of freedom.)
6. Don't kill people, and don't do the things that frequently incite violence, including:
7. Don't cheat with others' spouses,
8. Don't steal others' possessions, and
9. Don't lie about others' behaviors or characters.
10. In fact, if you really want to avoid the violence of the old slave economy, deal with its root source – in the drama of desire. Don't let the competitive desire to acquire tempt you off the road of freedom.

TALK ABOUT THIS ...

Do these sound like rules given by someone who wants to punish you for your mistakes? Or do they sound like the words of a loving parent who wants you to have a joyful, fulfilling life? What is the difference?

THIS WEEK'S THEMES:



SURPRISE:

Does God want to control you with rules? Or does God want to guide you into a joyful future?



CHARACTER:

Are there any commandments that you struggle to keep? Which ones? Why?



PROGRESS:

Can you think of a new commandment that would be helpful for our lives today? Does God keep calling us forward into a new, more loving way of life?

FAITH⁵ ... A BEDTIME ROUTINE FOR FAMILIES

SHARE your highs and lows from the day. READ the Bible story. TALK about how the Bible story relates to your highs and lows. PRAY for one another's highs and lows, and BLESS one another.

MORE INFORMATION: faith5.org