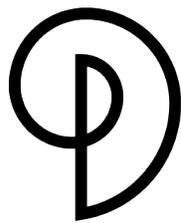


SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect



Source

June 24 & 25, 2023

It's really easy to write off the Ten Commandments as an archaic relic of the past, or the unreasonable demands of an old, rigid and controlling religious system. But to ignore the 10 Commandments is to miss the deep grace that gave birth to them - grace to shape our lives and give us an identity. And the journey to seeing the Commandments in that way begins at the beginning, at the Source, with our vision of the One who gave us the Commandments.

SCRIPTURE TEXT: EXODUS 1:8-11; 2:23-25

Read the scripture text together as a group.

BACKGROUND INFO

The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for hundreds of years. Their lives had been shaped by submission, oppression and despair. They had no collective sense that they were loved or valued. They had a slave mentality until God set them free and gave them a new identity. And one of the ways in which God gave them a new identity was by giving them the 10 Commandments: a down-to-earth, radical vision for life, inspired by God's grace. God chose these stiff-necked, rebellious slaves and formed them into the people of God, and the 10 Commandments were central to that process.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **How we envision God shapes how we see the Commandments.** Describe how you envision God: as an angry, distant deity; as an ancient, irrelevant construct; as someone disconnected from our lives; as a loving father; etc. How does your understanding of God shape your view of the 10 Commandments?
- **The God who gave the 10 Commandments is a God who hears our cries for help.** Re-read Exodus 1:8-11 and 2:23-35. Then read Psalm 40:1-3. When has God heard your cry for help? How did God respond?
- **The God who gave the 10 Commandments is a God who chooses us.** Read Deuteronomy 7:7-8 and John 15:12-17. Tell a story from your past when you were chosen for something. Then, share about a time that you were not chosen for something. How are your experiences similar to and/or different from how and why we are chosen by God?
- **The God who gave the 10 Commandments is a God who rewrites your story with grace.** Share about a time when you needed a "do-over" or a fresh start. Who in your life refuses to give up on you? Read Romans 8:38-39. How has the promise in these verses rewritten your story? What part of your story currently needs some grace-filled revisions?

CHALLENGE: Throughout this sermon series, allow yourself to believe that ancient words written on stone tablets can really impact your life. Open your ears, eyes and heart to the vision that these Commandments cast for your life, and remain receptive to the gracious story that God is writing in and through you.