

# T H E T E N

COMMANDMENTS  
THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

## SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 1 August 20, 2023

**“No Other Gods”**



### OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for the 10 commandments. And thank you for the life and words of Jesus that help us to understand how they apply to our lives as his followers. As we go through this study, please help us understand how they can be guardrails that can help us experience a good and beautiful life. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

#### Exodus 20:2-3 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.” <sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before me.”

#### Exodus 3:13-15 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ “This is my name forever; the name you shall call me from generation to generation.”

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## INTRODUCTION

Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, the list of "thou-shalt-nots" found in the Bible. Jesus saw these commandments not as onerous burdens, but as guardrails to help us experience a good and beautiful life. Every "thou-shalt-not" points to a life-giving "thou shalt." These ancient words were given by a loving God who longs to protect us from harm while pointing toward a deeply meaningful and joyful life.

In the 21st century, a god is anything that is the central focus in our lives. Many of our false gods are gifts from God that get misused – like money, sex and power. Putting God first in our lives and allowing everything else to be subordinate to that puts everything right in our lives. So, what's at the center of your life? What drives you? If it is not God, we need to refocus.

## QUESTIONS

1. Can you recite all 10 commandments? What do the 10 commandments mean in your spiritual life?
2. Read Exodus 20:2-3 (on page 1). What does the first commandment mean for your life?
3. Read Exodus 3:13-15 (on page 1). God reveals to Moses that his name is "I am who I am." What do you think this tells us about God?
4. During the sermon, Pastor Eric defined a god in our lives as "anything that is at the center of our life, anything that drives us or is most important to us." What have you made a god in your life?
5. Have you ever faced the temptation to serve God on Sunday, but serve money the rest of the week? What steps have helped you to break money's power to rule your life?

## FINAL APPLICATION

What's at the center of your life? What drives you? What's most important? What is it that you trust in most? What is it that directs where you are going? What is it that you count on? Who is it that you think about? Who is the source and sustainer of your life?

And if it is anything other than Yahweh, the God who created everything that is, I want to invite you to pray this week, "Lord, please forgive me for all the other things I have put before you. And help me to have no other gods before you."