

T H E T E N COMMANDMENTS *THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS*

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 7 October 1, 2023

**“Do Not Commit Adultery;
Be Faithful in Marriage”**



OPENING PRAYER

Father God, we gather here today under your care and protection. Thank you for your lovingkindness that never fails us. We thank you for those with us; and ask that you would guide our thoughts and actions to bring you glory. Strengthen us and fill us with your peace. May we love and serve each other as Jesus has shown us. Fill us with the Holy Spirit to do your good work on earth. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Exodus 20:14 (NIV)

You shall not commit adultery.

Exodus 20:14 (CEV)

Be faithful in marriage.

Colossians 3:12-15 (NIV)

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Matthew 5:27-28 (NIV)

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 7 October 1, 2023

“Do Not Commit Adultery; Be Faithful in Marriage”

INTRODUCTION

In ancient Israel, the seventh commandment - “do not commit adultery”- was framed as a sin against a married man committed by his wife and another man. However, Jesus came along and broadened the meaning of this commandment and we find that it means more than sleeping with someone who is not your spouse. So what does this commandment mean for us today?

Jesus says that adultery includes not only the act of intercourse with a woman who is not one’s wife, but also the desire behind the act. Jesus knows that our desires can lead us to commit the act of adultery. In order to resist temptation, we need to focus on the five R’s (as listed below in question #4). This commandment is also a call to be faithful in marriage. The way we are faithful in our marriage is by loving others the way that Christ loves us.

QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe your parents’ marriage when you were growing up? Did it have an impact on you in either a positive or negative way?
2. Have you or someone you know ever experienced infidelity in a marriage? If yes, what was the outcome of the relationship (divorce or staying married)?
3. Read both translations/interpretations of Exodus 20:14 (NIV and CEV on page 1). What do you think it looks like to be faithful in marriage?
4. Read Matthew 5:27-28 (on page 1). Why do you think Jesus broadens the command to include our desires, not just our actions? Do you think the 5 R’s Pastor Eric mentioned in the sermon can help us resist temptation?
 - Remember who you are.
 - Recognize the consequences of the action.
 - Rededicate yourself to God.
 - Reveal your struggle to a trusted friend.
 - Remove yourself from the tempting situation.
5. Read Colossians 3:12-15 (on page 1). In the sermon Pastor Eric said “love is a decision, not an emotion.” Do you agree or disagree? What does the passage you read have to do with love?

FINAL APPLICATION

What can you do this week to be more faithful in your marriage or an important relationship?
How can this group help?