



## Scotts Hill Baptist Church

GOD'S EXIT PLAN • THE BIG TEN (PART 2) • EXODUS 20:12-17 • 4/13/2025

### MAIN POINT

The second section of God's Ten Commandments reveal to us what it means to live a holy life in the midst of community and our horizontal relationships.

### INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**What rule did you have the most trouble following as a child? Why was it so difficult for you?**

**How different would your home be without any rules? How would it be the same? How about your workplace? Community?**

Rules protect us, keep us safe, and hold us accountable to certain standards or criteria. Just like rules in our homes, workplaces, and community, God has given us foundational principles for right living. This doesn't mean we will prosper materially or even experience better health. We are also not exempt from hardship. However, we only experience a meaningful and fulfilling life when we turn to Him in faith and live by His guidelines.

### UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ EXODUS 20:12-17.

In Exodus 20:12-17, God outlined principles for relating to others. Our relationship with God is closely tied to our relationships with others. This is the horizontal relationship. The Fifth Commandment has been called the bridge Commandment. It forms a bridge

between relating to God and relating to others. A person learns respect for God by first learning respect for authority in the home.

**How can learning these principles first through the home better equip us as Christians? How does this command relate to respecting God?**

**How can we teach our children to honor this commandment? How can we as adults still honor our parents?**

**How has your understanding of what it means to honor your parents changed or grown over the years?**

**How does Jesus interpret the commandment not to murder?**

**In what ways do you struggle with Jesus' teaching?**

**Does the prepositional phrase "against your neighbor" exclude lies about oneself from the command? Why or why not?**

**In what ways have you benefitted from difficult truth-telling?**

The Tenth Commandment has been called the blanket Commandment. In one sense it encompasses the other Commandments because it moves beyond prohibiting wrong actions to dealing with the wrong attitudes lying behind those wrong actions. Coveting is the foundation for other sin. If we do not covet, we will less likely violate other Commandments such as those forbidding theft, adultery, and murder.

**If covetousness, or jealousy, takes up space in our hearts and minds, what other commandments are we then tempted to break?**

**What attitude should we seek to have, then, toward others when things go well for them? What makes that hard?**

**In what ways do you see these commands being upheld today?**

**In what ways do you see these commands being shrugged off nowadays?**

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

God's calling Israel to right relationships with Him and with others through the Ten Commandments challenges us to express our obedience to God. Still today God requires

our sole allegiance. He not only created us; He has redeemed us by the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ. To live for Him, we must remain obedience to the guidelines He has established for life on this earth.

**How can our thoughts and attitudes regarding these Commandments be just as harmful as acting upon them?**

**What are some specific steps you can take to guard your heart from the kind of anger and adultery Jesus described?**

**Why are our attitudes just as important as our actions? What do our attitudes reveal about our relationship to God? To others?**

Foundational principles for right living come from God. Because He created us, He knows the guidelines we need in order to enjoy rich and fulfilling lives. We must know and understand how to honor and worship God so that we may better relate to Him and to other people. Though we may not struggle with acting against these commandments, Christ called us all to keep our attitudes and thoughts in check. Right actions begin with right attitudes.

## PRAYER

Thank God in prayer that He has given us His guidelines for living because He loves us and desires His best for us. Thank Him for sacrificing His Son on the cross for us and ask Him for help to live in obedience, both in attitudes and actions, to His guiding principles.

## COMMENTARY

| EXODUS 20:12-17

20:12. The first principle regarding relating to others is to honor our fathers and mothers. The Hebrew word translated “honor” can convey the idea of giving weight or significance to someone, thus, honoring that individual. This Fifth Commandment applies to adults as well as to children. Respect for parents is a lifelong obligation. Respect includes more than obedience. It also involves living in such a way as to bring our parents honor and praise, taking time to be with them, caring for their needs, and honoring their memory.

The Fifth Commandment has been called the bridge Commandment. It forms a bridge between relating to God and relating to others. A person learns respect for God by first learning respect for authority in the home. This Commandment needs special emphasis

in our society. Young children should be taught to respect their parents (see Eph. 6:1-2). Grown children should demonstrate honor toward their parents. Society as a whole needs to care for its elderly members and profit from their wisdom.

20:13. The Sixth Commandment and the second principle regarding relating to others is a command prohibiting murder. While in the Old Testament the Sixth Commandment was never understood as prohibiting capital punishment or war, the focus of this Commandment was on the sanctity of human life. God gave the gift of life, and only He has the right to take it away.

Every individual is a person of value because every person has been created in God's image (see Gen. 1:27). Societies that fall for the delusion that a person's value is based on his or her age, health, contributions, or certain other stipulations begin to violate this Commandment. People begin to destroy lives including those of the unborn, the sick, and the elderly. Sometimes lives are destroyed merely for the sake of convenience. Our world already has crossed the threshold of danger in this area. We need to pray for a return to a respect for life that recognizes all human life as a gift from God.

20:14. The Seventh Commandment and the third principle concerning relating to others is the prohibition against adultery. The focus of the Commandment falls on the right to a secure family life. The marriage covenant was to be regarded with utter seriousness. It was not to be violated. Not even King David could escape the consequences of breaking this Commandment (see 2 Sam. 12:1-15). Jesus applied the scope of this Commandment to include one's inner thoughts and attitudes (see Matt. 5:27-28).

This Commandment has been repeatedly broken in today's society. God has not changed His standards. Consequences of disobeying this Commandment include disease, unwanted pregnancies, undisciplined children, child abuse, divorce, and abortion. The entire society suffers when its members ignore this Commandment.

20:15. The Eighth Commandment and the fourth principle regarding relationships with others is the prohibition against stealing. Underlying this Commandment is the right to property. Stealing also reveals disrespect for others. If we do not honor another person's property, we do not respect that person. Stealing stems from selfishness and destroys trust. A society in which fear of theft predominates is an unstable society.

20:16. The Ninth Commandment and the fifth principle regarding relating to others is the prohibition against bearing false witness. Possibly this Commandment originally was interpreted in a limited sense to refer to giving false testimony in a law court. The scope of

the Commandment, however, obviously is much larger. This Commandment encompasses the speech of daily life. Lies are wrong, whether spoken to cause deliberate harm or to protect ourselves from embarrassment. Speaking the truth should characterize God's people.

20:17. The Tenth Commandment and the sixth principle regarding our relationships with others is the prohibition against coveting. To covet means to jealously or selfishly desire something that belongs to someone else. That selfish desire might be directed, for example, toward another person's property, home, wealth, health, spouse, children, success, or reputation. Avoiding a covetous attitude lies at the root of keeping all the other Commandments. Demonstrating a covetous attitude reflects ingratitude for God's loving provision for His people.