

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Top Ten Summer” (pt. 1) – 06.07.2015

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-6

Bottom Line: The 10 Commandments are an invitation to trust God's freeing work in Jesus, to trust Jesus as God, and to live freely by looking to Jesus to keep you free forever.

INTRODUCTION/ICEBREAKER:

This past Sunday we kicked off our, “Top Ten Summer,” series. Kick off summer with your small group by asking what their favorite summer activities are and also take time to share some of their favorite summer memories!

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read Exodus 20:1-3

The 10 Commandments are straight forward laws but they can still be a bit confusing. Here's what we need to know. The 10 Commandments are perfect and wonderful because God is perfect and wonderful (Psalm 19:7; Matthew 5:18; Romans 7:12). What a good, perfect, loving God speaks is good, perfect and loving! He is leading His people to experience the freedom which He has already graciously given them.

1) The law was given AFTER God set his people free from slavery. Why is this important?

Answer: This shows that grace comes **first!** The laws were not given to earn freedom from God, but to people who were already God's people and whom He already set free.

2) Why is this important for us today?

Answer: We don't follow the 10 Commandments to earn from God what he has already freely given us! We follow them to live out the freedom Jesus earned for us.

Read Exodus 20:4-6

1) What are some examples of modern idols that we encounter today?

Answer: American dream, big house, popularity, riches, etc.

2) What's wrong with these idols?

Answer: Some of these are really good things! The problem is when good things become, “god,” things and we desire, “stuff,” more than God. These idols over-promise and under-deliver, feed fear/anxiety, and don't provide the freedom that we desperately desire.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

1) Why are the 10 Commandments important in your everyday life?

Answer: God is our Good Father! He is the creator of life and knows how it works the best; a life lived to honor God leads others towards God.

2) How can I discover my idols?

Answer: Ask..."Life isn't worth living without _____".

3) How do I get rid of the idol's in my life?

Answer: Turn to Jesus! Trust that even when we don't fulfill the law that he has completely fulfilled it for us (Matthew 5:17; Galatians 2:16; John 8:36). Rest in what He finished and change will come.