



The Ten Commandments

FaithBuilder 2 | Lesson 3 | Lord

Lesson Overview

1. Watch a Video

Watch *How to Connect with God* at bitly.com/GodConnect (1min 32sec).

2. Read

The Ten Commandments
p.1-2.

3. Find out more

Research a commandment
p. 2

Entering the Kingdom of God is sometimes compared to climbing a mountain. Even though we know that the Kingdom of God is within us, the metaphor of God waiting for us at the top of the mountain is useful. We can visualize God as a loving Parent compassionately looking down on each of us.... God is always there with open arms, ready to receive us.

From *Rise Above It* by Ray and Star Silverman

New Church Concept Joined with the Lord

A person who lives according to the commandments is conjoined with the Lord. For the commandments teach life and also give life, and thus open the way to heaven, and the sight to the Lord.

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Watch a Video

Watch *How to Connect with God* (1min 32sec) online at bitly.com/GodConnect. (Enter the bitly link in the browser bar at the top of your screen.)

Discuss

1. What happened when two strangers discovered they both loved guitar?
2. How do we connect with the Lord?
3. What do people have in common with the Lord?
4. How can we become closer to the Lord?

Read

The Ten Commandments list the actions a person must do in order to form a connection with God. When we obey or keeps the commandments, we form a closer connection with God. When we deliberately act against these laws, we draw away from God.

The New Church teaches that there is a spiritual meaning hidden within the Old and New Testaments that explains how the Word applies not only to our lives in the world, but to our spiritual lives as well. Read through a short version of the Ten Commandments, and as you read, think about what each commandment means to you.

And God spoke all these words, saying, I am the Lord your God.
You shall have no other gods before My face.
You shall not take the name of the Lord Your God in vain.
Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's. Exodus 20:1-17 (parts)

Now explore the spiritual meaning of one of the commandments by yourself, in pairs or small groups. For example the commandment "You shall not steal." On

a basic level this commandment means that you should not take something that belongs to another person. On a higher spiritual level, stealing involves things like taking credit for another person's ideas, taking an opportunity that belongs to another person, or taking resources that belong to someone else such as your school or city, *etc.*

Find Out More

Use one of the following resources to help you find out more about one of the Ten Commandments:

- *The Swedenborg Concordance*, a six volume set of books. It is also online at <http://www.swedenborgdigitallibrary.org/contets/concord.html>. The online book does not have a searchable menu, but you can scan through the alphabet to find what you are looking for.
- <http://newchristianbiblestudy.org/swedenborg/> Look for the search feature that says "Search Swedenborg" at the top right hand side of the site. Type in the word you want to find out more about, e.g. lie, steal, or stealing. Relevant passages from the Writings will appear in a bar on the left. Scan them to see if they are helpful. Click on the short excerpt and read more in the pane on the right.
- www.kemptonproject.org Look up Exodus 20 in Study mode. Click on the verse you want to find out more about. Passage references from the Writings will appear in the center of the page. When you click on a reference, the passage appears in the pane on the right side.
- www.newchurchvineyard.org search for "The Ten Commandments" or Exodus 20.
- *Rise Above It*, a book by the Rev. Ray and Star Silverman

After studying one of the commandments, share what you found out about its deeper spiritual meaning.

Keeping the Lord's Covenant

Choose questions for discussion.

1. How might knowing the spiritual meaning of the commandments make it easier to keep the Lord's covenant?
2. How might knowing the spiritual meaning of the commandments make it harder to keep the Lord's covenant?
3. Does knowing the spiritual meaning of the commandments make you responsible for obeying them in a deeper way?
4. Why is it important to keep the spiritual as well as the literal meaning of the commandments?
5. How does keeping the commandments connect you more closely with God?

New Church Concept Doing what Is Right

"Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a person building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.... But he who heard and did nothing is like a person who built a house on the earth without a foundation.... And the ruin of that house was great." Luke 6:47-49

The life of heaven cannot be implanted in anyone unless he or she avoids doing evil, because evil obstructs. *Heaven and Hell* 522

Internal Meanings

Unless the Ten Commandments also contained internal things, they would never have been declared on Mount Sinai by means of so great a miraculous event. It was because those commandments in both senses were to be of service to person's life that they came down out of heaven on Mount Sinai by means of so great a miraculous event—being declared and heard in heaven in the internal sense and declared and heard on earth in the external sense. *Arcana Coelestia* 2609