The Ten Commandments

**Lesson Overview**

1. **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.)

2. **Read**

3. **Find out more**
   Research a commandment p. 2

**Enter the Kingdom of 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.

Reading the Ten Commandments

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/contents/concord.html](http://www.swedenborgdigitallibrary.org/contents/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/](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](http://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](http://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?