

TEACHING THE ELEVEN COMMANDMENTS

GOD FIRST, GOD ONLY, GOD ALWAYS

look back

First, **LOOK BACK** at the past week by asking, "How did we do?" Begin with prayer, then check in with one another—sharing honestly, celebrating victories, acknowledging struggles, and graciously offering practical help.

PRAYER - Begin with prayer, inviting Jesus into the conversation.

Since this is the first episode in this series, take time to:

- See how many of the Ten Commandments you can name from memory.
- Consider how often God's commandments influence your everyday decisions.
- Ask God to help you better understand His commandments, live them faithfully, and teach them to the NextGens you love.

look up

Next, **LOOK UP** to God's Word by asking, "What does Jesus want us to know?" If you haven't already, watch this week's video: "*God First, God Only, God Always.*" Then use the summary, questions, and Scriptures below to draw out the main truths together.

WATCH: Episode 1: God First, God Only, God Always

Episode Summary

The Ten Commandments are not a way to earn God's love or salvation. They reveal His holiness, expose our need for Jesus, and show us how to live in response to the grace we have already received. The First Commandment begins with the most fundamental truth of all: **God first, God only, God always.**

He is our Creator and Redeemer, and He loves us more completely than anyone else ever could. As grandparents, our task is not simply to teach NextGens what God commands, but to help them understand **why He deserves first place in their lives.**

We shouldn't just tell them what they should do, but why they should do it.

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

Whether you're studying on your own or with a group, each guide follows a simple yet powerful rhythm: **Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward.** For group leaders, additional instructions for leading a small group are included at the end of the first workbook in each series.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

God's commandments give us a moral compass for navigating a world where truth and values are increasingly up for grabs. This eleven-part series explores the Ten Commandments and Jesus' "new commandment" to love one another as He has loved us. More than a list of restrictions, God's commands reveal His character, show us our need for Jesus, and guide us in passing on His legacy of love to the next generations.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. God loved and redeemed His people even before they received His commandments. How does that change the way you think about obeying them?
2. What people or things most commonly compete with God for first place in your life?
3. Why is the belief that "I belong to myself" so different from the First Commandment?
4. How would you explain to a grandchild why God deserves first place in their life?
5. How can you teach God's commandments as a love letter from God rather than a list of rules?

Episode Notes

1. God's commandments still matter.

- The Ten Commandments reveal God's moral law and reflect His holiness.
- We don't obey them to earn salvation, but in response to God's grace and love.

2. The First Commandment begins with who God is.

- God is our Creator, Redeemer, and the One who loves us completely.
- We belong to Him—not to ourselves, the culture, or anyone else.

3. God alone belongs first.

- Anything or anyone that takes God's place in our lives becomes a false god.
- We are called to love God with everything we have.

4. Teach the "why," not just the "what."

- Help your grandchildren understand who God is before simply telling them what He commands.
- His commandments flow from His love and desire for our good.

WHAT DOES GOD'S WORD SAY?

KEY SCRIPTURE

Exodus 20:2–3 - "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me." Before God tells His people what to do, He reminds them who He is and what He has done for them.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:19 - "We love because he first loved us." Christian obedience begins with God's love for us. We want our grandchildren to obey God not merely because they have been given rules, but because they know and love the One who first loved them.

look forward

Finally, **LOOK FORWARD** by asking, "What does Jesus want us to do?" Commit to practical steps for living out this week's lesson. Review the assignment, share commitments with the group, pray for one another, and move forward together in faith and hope.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Matthew 22:37–38
Matthew 5:17–20
1 Corinthians 6:19–20

THIS EPISODE'S ASSIGNMENT

This week, have a simple conversation with a grandchild or NextGen loved one about **why God deserves first place in our lives.**

Rather than beginning with the command, **"You shall have no other gods before me,"** begin with who God is. In your own words, share these three truths:

- **God created us.**
- **God redeemed us through Jesus.**
- **God loves us and wants what is best for us.**

Then ask your grandchild what they think it means to put God first. Listen carefully to their answer before sharing your own thoughts.

During the week, also examine your own life for anything competing with God for first place. Teaching the First Commandment becomes much more powerful when our grandchildren can see us trying to live it ourselves.

PERSONAL GROWTH COMMITMENTS



- What has God laid on my heart?
- What is the Holy Spirit leading me to change?
- What will I do in my own life, in my relationships, and to reach NextGen loved ones?

SHARE WITH THE GROUP



Encourage sharing commitments, prayer needs, and real-life stories. Close in prayer, asking God to help you put Him first and teach the next generations to do the same.

ESSENTIALS FOR LEADING A SMALL GROUP

These principles help create a safe, encouraging environment where everyone can grow and connect:

- **Begin with Prayer –** Invite Jesus into the meeting and ask for His guidance.
- **Create a Welcoming Setup –** Sit in a circle so everyone can see each other.
- **Facilitate, Don't Lecture –** Guide the conversation using thoughtful, Scripture-based questions.
- **Stay on Mission –** Gently redirect if conversation drifts into unrelated topics or personal debates.
- **Model Grace & Openness –** Be transparent about your own journey and set expectations for confidentiality.
- **Build Relationships –** Include social time before or after the session.
- **Follow the Look Back / Look Up / Look Forward Rhythm –** Celebrate progress, offer grace for struggles, and encourage one another as you grow together.