



**catechism.**  
LIVING THEOLOGY

Becoming Like Christ: The Ten Commandments Part 1 – Lessons 16-21

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# Welcome to Catechism: Living Theology

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We're so pleased you've decided to join us for this year-long Catechism course. Your catechists have been preparing and praying for this class for the last few months. We anticipate a great time together as we explore the riches of Christ and grow in faith, life, and fellowship!

## 1. What is catechesis?



**Dr. J.I. Packer and Gary Parrett:**

*“Catechesis is the church's ministry of grounding and growing people in the Gospel and its implications for doctrine, devotion, duty, and delight.”<sup>1</sup>*



**Dr. J.I. Packer:**

“Catechesis teaches the truth Christians live by and a way to live by it.”

For hundreds of years, when the church is vibrant and healthy, part of its regular life has included these ancient and systematic practices of discipleship. These were founded around what have been called the Three Pillars:

- the Apostles' Creed (what we believe)
- the Lord's Prayer (how we belong to Christ)
- the Ten Commandments (how we become like Christ)

These three pillars ground us in the Christian way, truth, and life. Together they help us grow in the gift of the Gospel and understanding its implications for our daily lives.

## 2. What is Anglican Catechesis?

Anglicans believe that robust formation in Christ is part of regular Christian life together and that catechesis is a sound and systematic way to pursue it.

In practicing catechesis, the church has produced various *catechisms*. A catechism is a summary of Christian beliefs as well as of their practical application. Catechisms are like a handbook for living and growing as a Christian. Catechisms are often written in a question-and-answer format. Each is written to address the particular pastoral concerns of its age. Anglican catechisms derive their authority from the Bible, which they aim to systematically explain and apply.

This course, *Catechism: Living Theology* is designed to help groups walk through and study *To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism* (which we call TBAC for short). TBAC has 368 questions and

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<sup>1</sup> J.I. Packer and Gary Parrett, *Grounded in the Gospel: Building Believers the Old-Fashioned Way*

answers. We strive to cover the large majority of them in this year-long course, in addition to looking at the most foundational Scripture references together.

### 3. What does this course aim to achieve?

In catechesis our aim isn't just learning about God, but **growing to know God**. Our aim is growth in prayer, relationship, obedience, and in the joy of the Gospel. This means that we begin to apply our learning to daily life through assigned *life practices*.

We also want to grow **together** as God's church. To this end, we seek to build a fellowship of discipleship with one another. Our course's format seeks to foster participation, relational sharing, and true Christian fellowship.

Part of our instruction is also **counter-catechesis**, that is, undoing the work of the formation the world works all of us, by understanding and applying what we believe to current cultural beliefs.

### 4. What is a Catechist?

A catechist is a trained teacher of the catechism. Week by week, catechists will be teaching the full class and leading small groups. Additionally, catechists aim to walk alongside participants in our shared journey of discipleship; we too are people seeking to learn and live as disciples within this community. We're not experts, but guides. Sometimes a class will have trainee catechists. We appreciate your patience and care for them as they learn.

What can you expect of your catechists?

- To keep Jesus, the Gospel, and Scripture at the centre.
- To be committed, prayerful, prepared, and encouraging.
- To offer friendship and mentorship in the faith as fellow disciples and learners.
- To create a safe and energetic learning environment.
- To be honest about our struggles and failures as Christians.

### 5. What are we asking participants to commit to?

As we seek to grow in Christ, we each ask ourselves to:

- Attend as regularly as we can.
- Engage, contribute, listen well, and speak kindly to one another.
- Ask our questions without holding back.
- Seek to love and strengthen others who are in the course.
- Strive to complete our life practices between classes.

### 6. Outcomes from Catechesis

Catechism is a season of formation and instruction meant to lead us somewhere. After finishing catechism, we'd like you to consider the following:

- **Baptism:** If you aren't yet baptized, catechism serves as excellent preparation for receiving this sacrament.
- **Confirmation:** Confirmation commissions those baptized as infants into adult life and service in the church, following preparation. Many adults seek confirmation if they've come to find the Anglican church their spiritual home, or if they'd like to mark a spiritual renewal they've experienced as an adult.

- **Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows:** This is a service for those previously baptised and confirmed who would like to mark a new understanding of Christ and the Gospel at work in their lives.
- **Ongoing Growth and Service:** The instruction catechism provides is great preparation for every Christian's life in the church. In many ways, it's the "basic training" Christians need to participate well in a Bible study or community group and for serving in leadership roles within the church.

To this end, an annual recognition and commissioning of those who've completed the course is appropriate. Our hope is that those who complete the course will find another group to bless and grow with other Christians, as well as a way to share their gifts through service.

## 7. Recommended Resources

- *To Be a Christian Anglican Catechism*, 2020 edition
- *Growing in Christ*, J. I. Packer
- *57 words that changed the World*, Darrell Johnson
- *Grounded in the Gospel*, J. I. Packer and Gary Parrett
- *Delighting in the Trinity*, Michael Reeves
- *God's Big Picture*, V. Roberts
- *Concise Theology*, by J. I. Packer
- *Enjoying your Prayer Life*, by Michael Reeves
- *Knowing God*, by J. I. Packer

## 8. With Thanks...

Many catechists and others have contributed to the production of these materials through design, writing, and editing. We are so thankful for the contributions of:

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 ...and our many catechumens through the years!

## Memorizing the Ten commandments

*Question 256 from "To Be a Christian": See Exodus 20:1–17; Deuteronomy 5:6–21*

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.
3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

# Lesson 16: Introducing the Ten Commandments

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*To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism (2020 Edition)*  
*Becoming Like Christ: Questions 256-267: Introduction*

## Welcome



### Opening Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.



### Review of Catechesis

- What is catechesis?
- Our place in the catechism
- Our structure for learning this term

*My Notes*



### Today's Topic: The Ten Commandments

**Discuss together: What was your first contact with the Ten Commandments?**

- Christian Ethics: Foundational Pairs
- Love/Law
- Theology/Ethics

*My Notes*



## Ten Commandments: History and Overview (Small Groups)

Read aloud to the large group:



### Exodus 19:2-6

“... Israel encamped before the mountain, <sup>3</sup> while Moses went up to God. The Lord called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup> ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.’ <sup>5</sup> Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; <sup>6</sup> and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

### Exodus 20:1-21

<sup>1</sup>And God spoke all these words, saying,  
<sup>2</sup>“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>3</sup>“You shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. <sup>7</sup>“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain. <sup>8</sup>“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. <sup>12</sup>“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>“You shall not murder <sup>14</sup>“You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>“You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.” <sup>18</sup> Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off <sup>19</sup> and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.” <sup>20</sup> Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.” <sup>21</sup> The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

### Group A:

- *What do we learn about the historical context of the giving of the Law? (Exodus 19:2-6)*
- *What does Ex 20:1–11 teach us about God and God's character?*

### Group B:

- *What do we learn about the historical context of the giving of the Law? (Exodus 19:2-6)*
- *What does Ex 20:12–21 teach us about God and God's character?*

### Summing up Together:



## The Ten Commandments: Digging Deeper

### TBAC 256: Recite the Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.
3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

*(Book of Common Prayer 2019 version from Exodus 20:1–17; Deuteronomy 5:6–21)*

### **TBAC 257: What are the Ten Commandments?**

The Ten Commandments are a summary and outline of God's Law.

*(Exodus 20:18–21; Deuteronomy 5:28–33; Psalm 78:5–8)*

### **TBAC 259: What is God's law?**

God's Law (Hebrew, *Torah*: "instruction") is God's direct pronouncement of his will, both for our good and for his glory. *(Deuteronomy 30; Psalms 19:7–11; 119:89–104; Galatians 3:15–24)*

### **TBAC 259: When did God give his Law?**

After delivering his people Israel from slavery in Egypt, God established a covenant with them by giving them his Law through Moses. *(Exodus 19:1–6; Deuteronomy 5:1–5; Nehemiah 9:13–14; Acts 7:35–38)*

### **Why did God give the Ten Commandments?**

#### **Question 256 From TBAC 2013**

God's holy Law is a light to show me his character, a mirror to show me myself, a tutor to lead me to Christ, and a guide to help me love God and others as I should. *(Deuteronomy 4:32-40; Psalms 19; 119:97-104; Romans 7:7-12; 13:8-10; Galatians 3:19-26; James 1:21-25; 2:8-13)*



## **The Ten Commandments: Four Images:**



A Light: To Show God's love and holy character  
(Psalm 19:7-8)



A Mirror: To Show me myself and my sinfulness  
(Romans 7:7-12)



A Tutor/Signpost: To point me to Christ the perfect lawkeeper and saviour  
(Galatians 3:19-26)



A Guidebook: Showing me how to live, loving God and others as I should  
(Deut 4)



## The Ten Commandments and The Christian

- Final Pair: Old Testament/New Testament

*My Notes*

### TBAC 260: How did Jesus summarize God's law?

Jesus summarized God's Law by saying: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (*Matthew 22:37-40; see also Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Leviticus 19:9-18; Psalm 31:23-24; John 15:7-17; 1 John 4:16-5:3*)

- Two tables
- Motivation: Love
- An intentional ordering

*My Notes*

### TBAC 261: How did Jesus fulfill God's law?

For our sake, Jesus fulfilled God's Law by teaching it perfectly, submitting to it wholly, and dying as an atoning sacrifice for our disobedience. (*Psalm 119:49-72; Isaiah 53:4-12; Matthew 5:17-20; Romans 8:1-4*)

- Fulfill, not destroy
- Intensification, not diminishment
- Our need for a substitute

*My Notes*



## Applying the Ten Commandments

- Taking God's law seriously
- Willingness to consider and submit
- Realization of how we fall short
- Prayer, repentance, and faith

*My Notes*

### **TBAC 262: How can you obey God's Law?**

As I trust in Jesus' fulfillment of the Law for me and live in the power of the Holy Spirit, God grants me grace to love and obey his Law. (*2 Kings 18:1-8; Proverbs 3:1-12; John 15:3-11; Romans 6:15-23; 1 John 5:2-5*)

### **TBAC 263: Why are you not able to do this perfectly?**

Sin has corrupted human nature, inclining me to resist God, to ignore his will, and to care more for myself than for my neighbors. However, God has begun and will continue his transforming work in me, and will fully conform me to Christ at the end of the age. (*Psalm 14; Jeremiah 17:1-13; Romans 3:9-23; 7:21-25; Philippians 1:3-11*)

### **TBAC 264: When did God give his Law?**

After delivering his people Israel from slavery in Egypt, God established a covenant with them by giving them his Law through Moses. (*Exodus 19:1-6; Deuteronomy 5:1-5; Nehemiah 9:13-14; Acts 7:35-38*)

### **TBAC 265: How do the Ten Commandments help you to resist evil?**

They teach me that God judges the corrupt affections of this fallen world, the cruel strategies of the devil, and the sinful desires of my own heart; and they teach me to renounce them. (*Deuteronomy 8; Psalm 19:7-14; John 16:7-15; Romans 2:1-16*)

## TBAC 266: How do the Ten Commandments help you grow in the likeness of Christ?

They reveal my sin in the light of God's righteousness, guide me to Christ, and teach me what is pleasing to God. (*Deuteronomy 4:32–40; Psalms 19; 119:127–35, 169–76; Galatians 3:19–26; James 1:21–25; 2:8–13*)

## TBAC 267: Why should you keep the Ten Commandments?

Because they both contain God's prohibitions against evil and direct me toward his good will, I should both repent when I disobey them and seek by his grace to live according to them. (*Psalms 25:11–18; Romans 6; Colossians 3:5–17*)

## Summary

### Christian Ethics

- How do we know HOW to live? How do we make decisions about morals?

#### Three foundational pairs

- Pair 1: Love/ Law - the law tells us HOW to love and LOVE tells us why and how to keep the law
- Pair 2: Theology and Ethics - What we believe about God, Christ, and the gospel and how we live.
- Pair 3: The Old Testament and the New Testament - the fulfillment of the law by Christ in the New Testament. The law and 10 commandments makes the most sense when we look at them through Jesus, and that he actually intensifies the law.

#### How the law functions in the Christian's life

- A Light: to show God's love and holy character
- A Mirror: to show me myself and my sinfulness
- A Tutor/Signpost: to point me to Christ the perfect law-keeper and my savior
- A Guidebook: showing me how to live, loving God and others as I should

### Applying the Ten Commandments Today



## Life Practice

Take time to read the Ten Commandments again, familiarizing yourself with them more and more and then rereading the commitments under "Applying the Commandments" and prayerfully asking God to help make these commitments.



## Closing Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

# Lesson 17: No Other Gods

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*To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism (2020 Edition)*  
*Becoming Like Christ: Questions 268-273: The First Commandment*



## Opening Litany

**Leader** God spoke these words and said: I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods but me.

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**Leader** You shall not make for yourself any image or likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or worship them.

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**Leader** You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**Leader** Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Honour 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 neighbour.

You shall not covet.

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and write your laws in our hearts we pray.*



## Review: Introduction to the Law

Christian Ethics: HOW to love God and others

Three foundational pairs:

**1: Love/ Law** - the law tells us HOW to love and LOVE tells us how to keep the law

**2: Theology/Ethics** - What we believe governs how we live, how we live reveals what we believe

**3: Old Testament/New Testament** - The law is fulfilled by Christ,

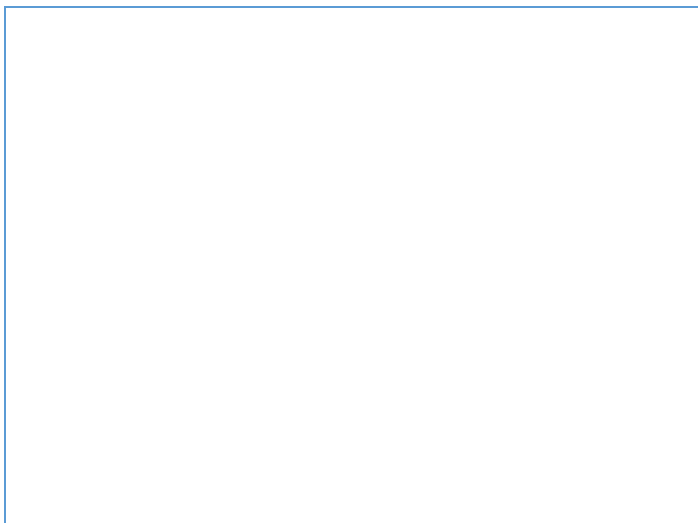
*My Notes*

How the law functions in the Christian's life

1. **A Light:** to show God's love and holy character
2. **A Mirror:** to show me myself and my sinfulness
3. **A Tutor/Signpost:** to point me to Christ the perfect law-keeper and my saviour
4. **A Guidebook:** showing me how to live, loving God and others as I should

Applying the Ten Commandments:

Comitting to thoughtful reflection



## The Meaning of the First Commandment (Large Group)

**TBAC 268. What is the first commandment?**

The first commandment is "I am the Lord your God. . . . You shall have no other gods before me."  
(Exodus 20:2-3; Deuteronomy 5:6-7; see also Psalm 97; Luke 4:5-8; 1 Corinthians 8:1-6)

### Exodus 20:2-3:

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."



### J.I. Packer (Growing in Christ, p235)

*When God gave Israel the Commandments on Sinai, he introduced them by introducing himself... What God is and has done determines what his people must be and do. So our study of the Decalogue should start by seeing what it tells us about God.*

God's Identity

First Commandment

The Two Tables

My Notes

### 269. What does it mean that the Lord is your God?

It means that I have faith that the God of the Bible is the only true God and that I entrust myself to him wholly (*Exodus 3:1–15; Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Psalm 86:8–13; Mark 12:29–34; Revelation 15:3–4*).

### 270. What does it mean to have no other gods?

It means that there should be nothing in my life more important than God and obeying his will. I should worship him only and love, revere, and trust him above all else. (*Psalm 95; Jeremiah 10:6–10; Luke 16:10–15; 1 John 2:15–17*)



#### Reflecting on the first commandment:

1. Can you think of any other areas in your life that compete for this kind of allegiance?
2. Do you think that it is a “fair ask”/expectation by God?
3. *Ask yourself: “Does this commandment reflect a description of my allegiance to God?”*



#### Expanding our Understanding

*(Small Group Exercise)*

Within each small group, one, two or three people will read a passage from one of the 4 sections below. Individuals will read their assigned passage silently for 3 minutes.

Readers should focus on:

1. Why God asks for wholehearted allegiance from his people
2. Note if there are any names or metaphors that are used to describe God.

After the 3 minutes of individual silent reading, the small group will report and discuss what was noted from each passage.



### #1: The Lord their Redeemer - Josh 24:14-24

“Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” 16 Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. 18 And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.” 19 But Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good.” 21 And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the Lord.” 22 Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” 23 He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the Lord, the God of Israel.” 24 And the people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.”



### #2: The Lord Creator and Source - Ex. 20:11

For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

#### Is 45:5-10

I am the Lord, and there is no other,

besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me,

6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. 7 I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things.

8 “Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; et the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout; I the Lord have created it. 9 “Woe to him who strives with him who formed him,

a pot among earthen pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’ or ‘Your work has no handles’? 10 Woe to him who says to a father, ‘What are you begetting?’ or to a woman, ‘With what are you in labor?’”



### #3: The Only Lord and God - Jeremiah 10:1-10

“Learn not the way of the nations, nor be dismayed at the signs of the heavens because the nations are dismayed at them, 3 for the customs of the peoples are vanity. A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman. 4 They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move. 5 Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.”

6 There is none like you, O Lord; you are great, and your name is great in might. 7 Who would not fear you, O King of the nations? For this is your due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like you. 8 They are both stupid and foolish; the instruction of idols is but wood! 9 Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz. They are the work of the craftsman and of the hands of the goldsmith; their clothing is violet and purple; they are all the work of skilled men. 10 But the Lord is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.



### #4. The Lord their only Lover - Ez 16:8-16

“When I passed by you again and saw you, behold, you were at the age for love, and I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine. 9 Then I bathed you with water and washed off your blood from you and anointed you with oil. 10 I clothed you also with embroidered cloth and shod you with fine leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk. 11 And I adorned you with ornaments and put bracelets on your wrists and a chain on your neck. 12 And I put a ring on your nose and earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. 13 Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen and silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour and honey and oil. You grew exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty. 14 And your renown went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor that I had bestowed on you, declares the Lord God.

15 “But you trusted in your beauty and played the whore because of your renown and lavished your whorings on any passerby; your beauty became his. 16 You took some of your garments and made for yourself colorful shrines, and on them played the whore. The like has never been, nor ever shall be.



## Summing Up (Large Group)

Negative Keeping

Positive Keeping

Faithful Exclusivity

*My Notes*



## 2. New Testament Fulfillment of this Command (Large Group)

Keeping this law intensifies

Bigger understanding of WHO  
God is: the Holy Trinity

Clearer Example of WHAT it  
looks like to keep the law

HOW we are to think about  
keeping this law as Christians

*My Notes*



## 3. The Application of this Command (Large Group)

### **TBAC 271. Why are you tempted to worship other things instead of God?**

I am tempted because my sinful heart seeks my own desires above all else and pursues those things which falsely promise to fulfill them. (*Deuteronomy 29:16–19; Psalm 10:2–7; Acts 19:23–27; James 4:1–10*)

## 272. How are you tempted to worship other gods?

I am tempted to trust in myself, my pleasures, my possessions, my relationships, and my success, wrongly believing that they will bring me happiness, security, and meaning. I am also tempted to believe superstitions and false religious claims, and to reject God's call to worship him alone. (*1 Kings 11:1–8; Psalm 73:1–17; Matthew 26:14–16; 27:1–5; Romans 1:18–32*).



### John Stott

*We do not need to worship the sun, the moon, and the stars to break this first commandment. We break it whenever we give first place in our lives to anybody or anything other than God. Instead, we are to love him with all our powers, making his will our delight and his glory our goal.*

### Klaus Bockmuehl

*Disobedience is idolatry. It is the worship of self-will, that alien god which is closest to our heart.*

### John 14:15

*If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*

The human heart as an "idol factory"

What are the today's "bestselling alternatives" to serving God only?

*My Notes*



## Private Reflection Time:

PERSONAL DIAGNOSIS: What is my First Love? Does God really come first in my life?

1. Who do you praise/adore? You may compliment your children, spouse, and friends, but who receives your highest praise?

2. Who do you count on/trust? Sure, God works through means, such as doctors, insurance companies, and prescription medicine, but when you really are in need, who do you know will always come through?

3. Who do you call for/seek (invocation)? Where do you look for answers? Where do you turn for purpose and joy? Is it food, work, TV, your phone, or the God of the universe?

4. Who do you thank? Where do your good days come from? What gives you delight and satisfaction and cause for gratitude? What gives you most anxiety and causes anger?



### Summing up together (Large Group)

#### ***273. Can you worship and serve God perfectly?***

No. Only our Lord Jesus Christ worshiped and served God perfectly; but I can seek to imitate Christ, knowing that my worship and service are acceptable to God through him. (1 Kings 15:9–14; Psalm 53:1–3; Luke 4:1–13; Ephesians 5:1–2; Hebrews 7:23–28)



#### **Klaus Bockmuehl**

*The First Commandment is always a call to repentance because we are rarely single-minded in our commitment to God. This commandment, when taken seriously, leads us to pray: “God have mercy on me a sinner!”*



## Discussion

*(Small Group Exercise)*

QUESTION: What habits or practices have helped you cultivate your love of God?



## Review of Today's Lesson

### **1. The Meaning of the Commandment**

The first commandment is first in order and importance

Two tables of the law show:

- How to live in relation to God
- How to live in relation to our fellow human beings

Negative dimension: Worship no other Gods

Positive dimension: Faithful exclusivity

God asks for Allegiance because:

1. He is the rescuer
2. He is the creator and source of life
3. He alone is true God and Lord
4. He wants true fidelity

### **2. The New Testament Fulfillment of the First Commandment**

A larger understanding of WHO the only God is

A larger understanding of HOW this commandment is kept

### **3. The Application of the First Commandment Today**

We spent some time thinking through diagnostic questions that help reveal what our first loves.

The commandment always brings with it:

- A call to repentance, dependence on the grace of Christ, renewed commitment to love God



## Closing Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*



## Life Practice

- Take one topic and passage ask:
- What does scripture say about God AND?

### God AND Money

Matthew 6:19-21, 24 and 33 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

### God AND Family

Matthew 10:37-39 “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

### God AND Power

Matthew 4:8-10 “Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” 10 Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God  
and him only shall you serve.”

- What did you discover? What did you learn?

Here are some more diagnosis questions for determining our hidden loves. Spend some time reflecting and praying before the Lord about these areas of your life.

- i. What do I spend my extra money on?
- ii. What do I prioritize when I have free time or leisure time?
- iii. What are the top five websites or apps I visit?
- iv. What do I daydream about or fantasize about?

# Lesson 18: No Graven Images

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*To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism (2020 Edition)*  
*Becoming Like Christ: Questions 274-282: The Second Commandment*



## Opening Litany

**Leader** God spoke these words and said: I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods but me.

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**Leader** You shall not make for yourself any image or likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or worship them.

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**Leader** You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**Leader** Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Honour 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 neighbour.

You shall not covet.

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and write your laws in our hearts we pray.*



## Review: The First Commandment

The First Commandment:

*You shall have no other gods but me.*

How has this commandment challenged you this week?

*My Notes*



## The Meaning of the Second Commandment (Large Group)

### 274. What is the second commandment?

The second commandment is “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them.” (*Exodus 20:4–6; 34:17; Deuteronomy 5:8–10*)

#### Exodus 20:4-6:

4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Discussion: what does the commandment forbid?

*Note the verbs*

*My Notes*

### 275. What does the second commandment mean?

God’s people are neither to worship man-made images of God or of other gods nor to make such images for the purpose of worshipping them. (*Exodus 20:23; 34:17; Leviticus 26:1; Deuteronomy 4:15–20; 27:15; Psalm 97:6–9; Acts 17:22–29; 2 Corinthians 6:16–18*)

Discussion: how is this different from the first commandment?

*My Notes*



**J.I. Packer**

*“At the end of the 2nd Commandment God reminds his people of his true nature as the jealous God who seeks true loyalty, the just God who judges his foes as they deserve and the gracious God who shows steadfast love to thousands of generations of those who love me and keep my commandments”*



## Expanding our Understanding

(Small Group Exercise)

Within each small group work through both sections. Silently read the TBAC questions and the corresponding passages of scripture and then discuss. Assign one member to take notes and report back to the large group.

### Section 1: The LORD Forbids Idolatry

#### 276. How did Israel break the first two commandments?

Israel neglected God's Law, worshiped the gods of the nations around them, and brought images of these gods (idols) into God's temple, thus corrupting his worship. (*Exodus 32; Judges 10:6; 1 Kings 12:28–33; 2 Kings 21:1–9; Psalm 106:19–43; Hosea 13:2; 1 Corinthians 10:1–14*)

#### 277. Why did the nations make such images?

Israel's neighbors worshiped and served false gods by means of idols, believing they could manipulate these counterfeit gods for their own benefit. (*Psalm 115:2–8; Isaiah 44:9–20; Jeremiah 10:2–15; Habakkuk 2:18–19; Revelation 2:18–29*)



#### #1: Deuteronomy 4:9-23

“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children—<sup>10</sup> how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the Lord said to me, ‘Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may learn to fear me all the days that they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children so.’

<sup>11</sup> And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while the mountain burned with fire to the heart of heaven, wrapped in darkness, cloud, and gloom. <sup>12</sup> Then the Lord spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of words, but saw no form; there was only a voice. <sup>13</sup> And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone. <sup>14</sup> And the Lord commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and rules, that you might do them in the land that you are going over to possess.

<sup>15</sup> “Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire, <sup>16</sup> beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female, <sup>17</sup> the likeness of any animal that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, <sup>18</sup> the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the water under the earth. <sup>19</sup> And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the Lord your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven.

<sup>23</sup> Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make a carved image, the form of anything that the Lord your God has forbidden you.”

Reflection:

1. What does this passage show us about *how* God reveals his rule and covenant to Israel?
2. What does this passage show us about *why* God forbids idolatry?

**Section 2: The Consequences of Idolatry**

**282. How will idolatry affect you?**

If I worship and serve idols, I will become like them, empty and alienated from God, who alone can make me whole. (*Psalm 115:4–8; Jeremiah 2:11–19; Jonah 2:7–9; Romans 1:18–25*)



**#2: Psalm 115:1-8**

- 1 Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,  
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!
- 2 Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?”
- 3 Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.
- 4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.
- 5 They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see.
- 6 They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell.
- 7 They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk;  
and they do not make a sound in their throat.
- 8 Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.

Reflection:

1. (a) What does this passage say are the characteristics of idols and (b) how does this compare with the true God?
2. What does this passage say happens to those who worship idols?
3. What does this reveal about the nature of worship?



## The Meaning of the Second Commandment (Large Group)

Feedback: why does God forbid worshipping images?

Negative Dimension

Positive Dimension

*My Notes*



## 2. New Testament Fulfillment of this Commandment

### The Negative Teaching (Small Group Discussion)

Within each small group, read through the passage and discuss.



#### **Romans 1:18-25**

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.<sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world in the things that have been made. **So they are without excuse.** <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,<sup>25</sup> because they **exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen***

1. According to this passage, what is the root of idolatry?
2. What is the “truth about God” which is exchanged for a lie?



## The Positive Teaching (Large Group Discussion)

### The Witness of the Gospels:

#### Jesus Fulfills the Law!

God sent Jesus to “rescue us from the kingdom of darkness and transfer us to the kingdom of his beloved son”

Jesus always loved and worshipped the true God.

*My Notes*

### **281. How was Jesus tempted to break the first two commandments?**

Satan tempted Jesus to bow down and worship him, promising him an earthly kingdom without the pain of the Cross. Instead, Jesus served and worshiped God faithfully and perfectly all his life and calls us to do the same. (*Matthew 4:1–11; 16:24; Luke 22:41–44; Philippians 2:8*)

Three takeaways:

1. Jesus resists temptation and fulfills the commandments.
2. Christ himself is the true, perfect, and complete image of God.
3. As he redeems and sanctifies us, we are restored to the “image of our creator” which sin has distorted. See *Colossians 1:15-16, 3:10*

### **278. Are all images wrong?**

No. God forbade the making of idols and the worship of images, yet commanded carvings and pictures for the tabernacle depicting creation. Christians are free to make images—including images of Jesus and the saints—as long as they do not worship them or use them superstitiously. (*Exodus 37:1–9; Numbers 21:4–9; 1 Kings 6:23–35; 7:23–26; John 3:9–15*)

Two takeaways:

1. Christian art is appropriate to depict God’s good creation, and even Jesus and the saints.
2. But they should never be used as objects of worship. Christian images can be used in an accessory way, but never as a focus of worship. Word and Sacrament are the ways God has promised to be with us—he has not promised to be with us through images.

### 279. Are idols always images?

No. Anything can become an idol if I look to it for salvation from my sin or comfort amid my circumstances. If I place my ultimate hope in anything but God, it is an idol. (1 Samuel 15:23; Ezekiel 14:3–5; Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5)



## 3. The Application of this Commandment

*(Small Group)*

Break into small groups and discuss:

Is this just a first century problem?

How do we create idols today?



**Jim Packer**

*“God’s real attack [in the 2nd commandment] is on mental images of which metal images are more truly the consequence than the cause. ...If imagination leads our thoughts about God, we too shall go astray”*

**Martin Buber**

*It is a fight to subdue the revolt of fantasy against faith... it is necessary to recognize Him as He is, and not in the shape with which people would like to endow him*

**John 14:15**

*If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*

Negative Aspect:

- *What form does our idolatry take today?*
- *When have your own thoughts and imagination led you astray in knowing and serving God?*
- *Why do you think idolatry comes so naturally to all of us?*

Positive Aspect:

- *Where does God truly reveal himself to you?*
- *How does right worship enable me to love God more fully?*
- *How does truly worshipping God enabled me to love other people rightly?*

*My Notes*



## Summing up together

### **280. What does the second commandment teach you about hope?**

It teaches me that my ultimate hope is in God alone, for he alone is God and he made me. I must not look for salvation and fulfillment in myself, another person, my wealth or occupation or status, or any created thing. Only in God will I find perfect love and fulfillment. (*Psalm 62; Isaiah 45:20–25; Matthew 6:19–24; 1 Thessalonians 1:9–10*)

The heart-application of this commandment:

1. God loves us, so we must love him and be passionately devoted to *his* purposes.
2. In order to love God rightly we must worship according to the way he prescribes and in line with how he has revealed himself.



#### **Klaus Bockmuehl**

*In Jesus Christ, God has provided an image of what man is truly to be under God. Christ is not only the true image of God, but also the “true man.” It is this image of true manhood under God as shown in Christ that is also our destiny...We are all being changed into Christ’s image by the Spirit of the Lord.*



## Review of Today’s Lesson

### **1. The Meaning of the Second Commandment**

The second commandment prohibits the creation and worship of idols. This is because idolatry both violates God’s Word and (ultimately) destroys *us* because we are his image bearers.

### **2. The New Testament Fulfillment of the Second Commandment**

Jesus came to fulfill the first two commandments faithfully and fully. Christian imagery can be honoring to God so long as we do not worship images nor use images superstitiously.

### **3. The Application of the Second Commandment Today**

Not all idols are images: we make idols out of virtually anything in the modern world. Anything to which we give our worship other than God is an idol. God desires the affection of our hearts, so we must devote ourselves to worshipping him in spirit and in truth.



## Life Practice

### A. Take some time daily to reflect on your own idols.

Read *Exodus 20:4-6*, *Psalms 115:1-8*, and *Acts 17:22-29* to frame your reflection and then answer these questions to help diagnose where you have idols in your own life:

1. What material things do I cling to?
2. What do I suppose I cannot live without?
3. Who do I understand God to be? What in this agrees with Scripture, what does not?

### B. Take some time daily to remember how God has redeemed you and how he deserves your worship.

Read *Colossians 1:13-20*, *Psalms 115:9-18*, and *Matthew 6:19-34* to frame this remembering and then reflect on these statements to help guide your devotion to God:

4. Jesus Christ has perfected fallen humanity—in him all things are made right.
5. God is my ultimate hope—in him I have refuge from danger and abundant blessing.
6. Our heavenly Father provides all I need—in him I am full and complete.



## Closing Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

# Lesson 19: The Lords Name

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*To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism (2020 Edition)*  
*Becoming Like Christ: Questions 283-289: The Third Commandment*



## Opening Litany

**Leader** God spoke these words and said: I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods but me.

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**Leader** You shall not make for yourself any image or likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or worship them.

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**Leader** You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**Leader** Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Honour 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 neighbour.

You shall not covet.

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and write your laws in our hearts we pray.*



## Review: The Second Commandment

### The Second Commandment:

*You shall not make for yourself any image... or bow down and worship them*

How has this commandment challenged you this week in your thinking, or in the life practice?

*My Notes*



## 1. The Meaning of the Third Commandment (Large Group)

Introduction

Why Names Matter

My Notes

### TBAC 283: What is the third commandment?

The third commandment is “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.” (*Exodus 20:7; Deuteronomy 5:11; see also Leviticus 22:32; see questions 172–77*)



#### Exodus 20:7

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

### TBAC 284: Why is God’s name sacred?

God’s Name reveals who he is—his nature, his character, his power, and his purposes. All forms of God’s Name are holy. (*Exodus 3:1–15; 34:5–7; Psalms 8; 54:1; 79:9; Isaiah 57:15; Luke 1:46–49*)



#### Exodus 34:5-7

The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with Moses there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed: “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”



## Exodus 3:13-15

Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” 15 God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.



### Discuss in Pairs...

In pairs, discuss: What’s the connection between the second and third commandments?

2. *You shall not make for yourself any idol.*  
And...
3. *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.*



### The Negative Dimension (Large Group)

#### TBAC 285: What does it mean to take God’s name “in vain”?

“Vain” means empty, meaningless, and of no account. To take God’s Name in vain is to treat it as such. (*Leviticus 24:10–16; Romans 2:23–24*)

#### TBAC 286: How can you avoid taking God’s name in vain?

Because I love him, I should use God’s Name with reverence, not carelessly or profanely. (*Deuteronomy 28:58–59; Psalms 86:11–12; 99:1–5; Revelation 15:2–4*)

#### TBAC 287: How might you use God’s name profanely?

By the unholy use of God’s holy Name, especially through perjury, blasphemy, and attributing to God any falsehood, heresy, or evil deed, as if he had authorized or approved them. (*Deuteronomy 18:20–22; Proverbs 30:7–9; Jeremiah 34:15–16; Ezekiel 36:16–23; Amos 2:6–7; Jude 5–13*)

#### TBAC 288: How might you use God’s name carelessly?

Cursing, magic, broken vows, false piety, manipulation of others, and hypocrisy all cheapen God’s Name. These treat God’s Name as empty of the reality for which it stands. (*Leviticus 5:4–6; 19:26b, 31; Psalm 10:2–7; Malachi 1:6–14; Matthew 5:33–37; James 3:5–12; Articles of Religion, 39*)



## The Positive Dimension (Large Group)

God's people invoke his name in **speaking the truth**.



### Deuteronomy 6:13

It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear.

God's people **call** upon the name of the Lord



### Joel 2:32

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

### Psalms 105:1

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!

God's people **glorify** God's name.



### Psalms 29:1-2

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,  
Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.



## 2. The New Testament fulfillment of the third commandment (Large Group)

1. Jesus shows us what God is like and “personifies” God’s name. In Jesus, God reveals himself fully.

*My Notes*



### John 17:6

I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

### John 17:26

I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

2. Jesus’ names point to what he does.

*My Notes*

We are saved by Jesus’ name  
(Acts 2:21, 4:12, 1 Cor 6:11b)



### Matthew 1:21, 23

...and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means “God with us”)

3. Jesus teaches us how to revere God.

He teaches us to call God Father

He hallows God's name perfectly

*My Notes*



### **Romans 8:15**

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

### **Matthew 5:9**

Pray then like this: Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be thy name...

4. As Christians, we use God's name when:

- We give thanks and praise to God through Jesus' name (Eph. 5:20).
- We confess Jesus' name (Acts 9:15; Matt. 10:33).
- We pray in Jesus' name (John 14:13).
- We worship and bow to Jesus' name. (Phil 2: 9-11).
- We baptize new believers in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)

*My Notes*

5. We belong to Christ and are called by his name as well, i.e., bear of his name.

*My Notes*



### Acts 11:26

...And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians



### 3. Applying the third commandment (Large Group)

#### TBAC 289: How can I honor and love God's name?

I honor and love God's Name, in which I was baptized, by keeping my vows and promises, by worshiping him in truth and holiness, and by invoking his Name reverently and responsibly. (*Numbers 30:2; Deuteronomy 10:20–22; Psalm 105:1–5; Matthew 15:10–20; James 5:12*)



#### Small Group Study

In small groups, read these passages silently and then discuss as a group:

*how do these passages teach us to honor God's name rightly?*



### James 3:5-12

5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of

deadly poison. 9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.



### James 5:12

12 But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your “yes” be yes and your “no” be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.



### Acts 4:7-12

7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”



### Acts 4:7-12

7 And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, 10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. 11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”



### Titus 1:16

They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.



## Acts 5:41

Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

### Small group discussion

(10 min)

- What has God done that is worthy of your respect?
- As bearers of God's name, what are some ways that we dishonor God's name or take the Lord's name in vain?
- As bearers of God's name, how can we uphold God's honor and reputation? How does this play out in our daily lives?
- What are you saying when you call God "our Father" or "Abba"?



## Review: The Third Commandment

### 1. The Meaning of the Commandment

- The significance of the name of God
- God's Name reveals who he is—his nature, his character, his power, and his purposes.
- The gift of this self-giving of God to us - *He entrusts his name and reputation to His people*

### What does it mean to take God's Name "in vain"?

"Vain" means empty, meaningless, and of no account. To take God's Name in vain is to treat it as such.

- Rather than "take", "bear" or "carry" is a better translation and that it enlarges our understanding about representing God in a manner that is worthy "or not in vain".

### 2. New Testament Fulfillment

- Christ comes and reveals God fully, being the true and perfect image of God – so he reveals the name of God to us completely.
- He also makes it possible for us to take the name of God for ourselves by dying for us and adopting us into his family

### 3. Application of the Commandment

- Obeying this commandment includes our honouring God in our speech but even more, living in a manner worthy of the Lord so we bear his name worthily and not in "vain"



**J.I. Packer**

God is to be given glory for all the glories of his name, that is, his glorious self-revelation in creation, providence and grace.



## Life Practice

Choose one of the following:

1. Was there something that stood out to you in this week's lesson, either something you do that you felt convicted of or a way that you could more intentionally glorify God's name? Take some time to talk about this with God (pray about it), and then watch for opportunities to act more faithfully.
2. Is there something (a task or relating to a difficult person) that you need to do regularly but you struggle with your attitude about it? Consider this week how you might do it in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks (Col. 3:17).



## Closing Prayer

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Lesson 20: Keeping the Sabbath Holy

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*To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism (2020 Edition)*  
*Becoming Like Christ: Questions 290-299: The Fourth Commandment*



## Opening Prayer and Memorization

Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all your works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.
3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.



## Review: The Third Commandment

*Break into pairs and share together either something that each one took away from the lesson last week or something God has been teaching you through the Life Practice this past week.*

### **1. The Meaning**

- God's Name reveals who he is—his nature, his character, his power, and his purposes.
- He entrusts his name and reputation to His people
- "Vain" means empty. To take God's Name in vain is to treat it as such.
- Rather we are to "bear" his name

### **2. New Testament Fulfillment**

- Christ reveals God fully, so he reveals the name of God to us completely.
- He makes it possible for us to take the name of God for ourselves by dying for us and adopting us into his family

### **3. Application of the Commandment**

- Obeying this commandment includes honouring God in our speech and living in a manner worthy of the Lord.

*My Notes*



## 1. The Teaching of the Fourth Commandment (Large Group)

### TBAC 290: What is the Fourth Commandment?

The fourth commandment is “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

*(Exodus 20:8–10; see also Deuteronomy 5:12–14)*

Discuss: What have your experiences been in keeping the Sabbath?



### Exodus 20:9-11

<sup>8</sup> Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labour, and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

**What** are they to do?

**Why** are they to do it?

Sabbath as the goal of creation

*My Notes*



## Small Group Study



### Deuteronomy 5:12-15

<sup>12</sup>Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. <sup>13</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>14</sup>but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. <sup>15</sup>You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore, the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

Discuss: What is added to our understanding of the sabbath in this passage?



## The Teaching of the Fourth Commandment: Digging Deeper (Large Group)

### TBAC 291: What does it mean to keep the Sabbath Holy?

“Sabbath” is from the Hebrew *shabbath*, which means “rest.” “Holy” means “set apart” for God’s purposes. God commanded Israel to set apart each seventh day, following six days of work, for rest and worship. (*Genesis 2:2; Exodus 31:12–17; Psalm 23:1–3; Mark 1:21–22*)

### TBAC 292: Why was Israel to rest on the Sabbath?

Israel was called to rest in remembrance that God had freed them from slavery and that God rested from his work of creation, bringing joyful balance and rhythm to life, work, and worship. (*Genesis 2:1–2; Exodus 20:11; 23:12; Deuteronomy 5:12–15*)



## 2. The New Testament Fulfillment (Large Group)



### Small Group Study



#### Mark 2:23-27

<sup>23</sup> One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. <sup>24</sup> The Pharisees said to him, “Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

<sup>25</sup> He answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? <sup>26</sup> In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.”

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup> So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

#### Questions:

*What does Jesus teach us about the Sabbath here?*

*What does he mean the “Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath?”*



#### Luke 13:10-15

<sup>10</sup> On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, <sup>11</sup> and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” <sup>13</sup> Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

<sup>14</sup> Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.” <sup>15</sup> The Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? <sup>16</sup> Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond of the Sabbath day?”

## Questions:

What does Jesus reveal to be the true or original intent of the Sabbath here?



### The New Testament Fulfillment: Digging Deeper (Large Group)

#### TBAC 293: How did Jesus teach us to keep the Sabbath?

As Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus taught us to keep it not merely as a duty, but as a gift of God to be received with joy and extended to others through acts of love and hospitality. (*Mark 2:23–3:6; Luke 13:10–16*)

#### TBAC 291: How did Jesus bring Sabbath as God’s eternal gift to you?

Jesus now offers himself as the source of my true rest—from the slavery of sin, from the wasteland of human striving, and from Satan’s legacy of futile toil, pain, disease, and death. (*Matthew 11:25-30*)



#### Matthew 11:28-30

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

#### TBAC 297: Why does the church worship on the first day of the week rather than the seventh?

The earliest Christians came to observe Sunday as “the Lord’s Day” (*Revelation 1:10*) for their primary day of worship in remembrance of Jesus’ resurrection on the first day of the week. (*Luke 24:1–7; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Didache 14.1; Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Magnesians 9*)



### 3. The Application of this Commandment Today

Read the questions and responses and the quotes from Kevin DeYoung *silently*.

#### TBAC 295: How do you keep the Sabbath?

I cease from all unnecessary work; rest physically, mentally, and spiritually; and join with my family and church in worship, fellowship, and works of love. (*Psalm 92; Isaiah 58:13–14; Matthew 12:12; Colossians 2:16–23*)

#### TBAC 296: What does this commandment teach you about work?

My work is a gift of God that can grant me provision and satisfaction, and serve the common good, but it neither defines my life nor rules over it. I am thereby freed from resentment and sloth to work diligently and with joy for God’s glory. (*Genesis 2:15; Exodus 20:9–11; Psalm 128; Proverbs 6:6–11; 12:11–14; 16:3; Ephesians 4:28; Colossians 3:23–24*)

#### TBAC 298: What does the Sabbath teach you about time?

Through an ordered life of weekly worship and rest throughout the Christian year, and by a regular pattern of daily prayer, I learn that time belongs to God and is ordered by him. (*Genesis 1:14–15; Leviticus 23; Psalms 92:1–4; 119:164; Acts 3:1; Hebrews 10:25*)

#### TBAC 299: How does keeping the Sabbath help you grow in Christ?

As I keep a weekly day of rest and worship, my faith in God my Creator is strengthened, my hope in God my Provider is renewed, and my love for God my Redeemer is deepened. (*Exodus 16:1–30; Psalm 127:1–2; Hebrews 10:19–25*)



#### Kevin DeYoung

We obey the commandment but also recognize that Jesus has transformed it, **and this commandment more than the others**. Christ gives us the substance instead of the shadow. The Sabbath principle from creation to exodus to the New Testament Lord’s Day has always pointed in the direction of trust...Can you trust God to carry you [your burdens] (and carry you!) if you have faith enough to stop striving.

You don’t have to earn anything. You don’t have to prove anything. The world does not depend on you. Your salvation does not depend on you. In an ultimate sense, your family does not even depend on you. Can you hear the sweet voice of Jesus say, “Come to me...and I will give you rest”? Take him at his word. Believe him. Trust him. Run to him. And then, every Resurrection Day, give expression to what you believe by giving him praise and giving yourself a break.

## Discuss Together:

1. How has today's study changed your understanding of the Sabbath?
2. What practices would help you enter the “**rest**” God has for you now and in eternity?
3. What is hindering you from joy and relationships with God and others on the Sabbath?
4. How could you help others be restored and blessed on the Sabbath?



## Summing up (Large Group)

Each Commandment is a:

- call to repentance,
- reminder that we need Christ to save us,
- call to renewal,
- call to new habit



## Review

### 1. The Teaching of the Commandment

- The fourth commandment is “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”
- “Sabbath” is from the Hebrew *shabbath*, which means “rest.”
- “Holy” means “set apart” for God’s purposes. God commanded Israel to set apart each seventh day, following six days of work, for rest and worship.
- Israel was called to rest in remembrance that God had freed them from slavery and that God rested from his work of creation, bringing joyful balance and rhythm to life, work, and worship.

### 2. The Reasons for the Sabbath

- God commands it- so we keep it
- It is for Rest – a gift to receive
- It is to help us Remember- a sign
- For Consecration (to worship God)
- To Care (for others)

### 3. New Testament Fulfillment

- Jesus restored the original intention of the Sabbath= blessing/life and liberation
- As Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus taught us to keep it not merely as a duty, but as a gift of God to be received with joy and extended to others through acts of love and hospitality.
- Jesus now offers himself as the source of my true rest—from the slavery of sin, from the wasteland of human striving, and from Satan’s legacy of futile toil, pain, disease, and death.
- And by his death and resurrection restores the reality of the Sabbath



## Closing Litany

**Leader** God spoke these words and said: I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods but me.

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**Leader** You shall not make for yourself any image or likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or worship them.

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**Leader** You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**Leader** Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Honour 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 neighbour.

You shall not covet.

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and write your laws in our hearts we pray.*



## Life Practice

This week prayerfully revisit the following questions:

1. How has today’s study changed your understanding of the Sabbath?
2. What practices would help you enter the “rest” God has for you now and in eternity?
3. What is hindering you from joy and relationships with God and others on the Sabbath?
4. How could you help others be restored and blessed on the Sabbath?

## Appendix on the Sabbath Day Practice:

Most Christians have followed the ancient church in aligning the celebration of the Sabbath (formerly practiced Friday to Saturday night within Judaism) with the Sunday corporate celebration of Jesus’ resurrection, the Word preached, and Sacrament duly administered. It is ideal to align a day of joyful rest and remembrance with our corporate worship, though some may find the need to separate the two. Keep in mind, practicing the Sabbath is more than a “day off” and more than simply showing up to a church service. In is a mindful practice that is carefully kept and remembered, where our lives are different and dedicated to the Lord and his service in a unique way.

# Lesson 21: Honour your Father and your Mother

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*To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism (2020 Edition)*  
*Becoming Like Christ: Questions 300-306: The Fifth Commandment*



## Opening Prayer and Memorization

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have commanded me to honor my father and mother and by so doing love you with all my heart, soul, and mind and love my neighbor as myself, following the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that I may do so through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall have no other gods but me.
2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.
3. You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.



## Review: The Fourth Commandment

*Break into pairs and share together either something that each one took away from the lesson last week or something God has been teaching you through the Life Practice this past week.*

### The Teaching of the Commandment

- “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”
- “Sabbath” is from the Hebrew *shabbath*, which means “rest.”
- “Holy” means “set apart” for God’s purposes. God commanded Israel to set apart each seventh day, following six days of work, for rest and worship.
- Israel was called to rest in remembrance that God had freed them from slavery and that God rested from his work of creation.

### The Reasons for the Sabbath

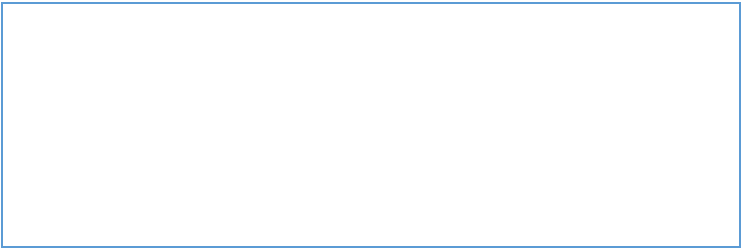
- God commands it- so we keep it
- It is for Rest – a gift to receive
- It is to help us Remember- a sign
- For Consecration (to worship God)
- To Care (for others)

### New Testament Fulfillment

- Jesus restored the original intention of the Sabbath= blessing/life and liberation
- As Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus taught us to keep it as a gift of God to be received with joy and extended to others through acts of love,

*My Notes*

- Jesus now offers himself as the source of my true rest—from the slavery of sin, from the wasteland of human striving, and from Satan’s legacy of futile toil, pain, disease, and death.



## 1. The Teaching of the Fifth Commandment (Large Group)

### TBAC 300: What is the Fifth Commandment?

The fifth commandment is “Honor your father and your mother.” (*Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16*)



#### Exodus 20:12

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

#### Deuteronomy 5:16

Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

What do you notice about this command?

How is it different from the others?

How is this command linked to what comes before and after?

*My Notes*

### TBAC 301: What does it mean to honour your father and mother?

I should love, serve, respect, and care for my parents all their lives, and should obey them in all things that are reasonable and conform to God's Law.

(Genesis 45:7–13; Proverbs 6:20–22; 20:20; 23:22; Ephesians 6:1–3; Colossians 3:20)

What does it mean to “honour”?

My Notes



### Honouring Parents: Practice and Promise (small groups)

Read silently and discuss together in groups.



#### Deuteronomy 11:18-21

<sup>18</sup> You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>19</sup> You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>20</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, <sup>21</sup> that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

- Where do you see a connection to the “promise” of Commandment five?
- What are the various settings in which the “laying up” of God’s word occurs in families?
- If parents are to be instructing children in this way, how does this highlight *why* parents are to be honored? If parents are teaching in this way, whose words are they?



### Proverbs 1:8-9

8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,  
9 for they are a graceful garland for your heads and pendants for your neck.

### Proverbs 4:10-13

<sup>10</sup> Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many.  
<sup>11</sup> I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness.  
<sup>12</sup> When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble.  
<sup>13</sup> Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life.

### Proverbs 23:22-25

<sup>22</sup> Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.  
<sup>23</sup> Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.  
<sup>24</sup> The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice;  
he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him.  
<sup>25</sup> Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice.

- Where do we see “the promise” in these Proverbs?
- What do we know about the *content* of the parental instruction in these verses?
- What gives parents joy? What might that look like, lived-out?



## 2. The New Testament Fulfillment (Large Group)

### TBAC 303: How did Jesus keep the fifth commandment?

As a child, Jesus obeyed Joseph and Mary; on the Cross, he provided for his mother by entrusting her to his disciple's care; in his life, he obeyed the lawful requirements of the civil and religious authorities; and in all things he sought to do his Father's will. (*Luke 2:39–52; John 10:22–39; 19:25–27*)



## Jesus Teaching on Honouring our Parents

Read silently and discuss together in groups.



### Matthew 15:3-9

3 Jesus replied, “And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? 4 For God said, ‘Honor your father and mother’ and ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’ 5 But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is ‘devoted to God,’ 6 they are not to ‘honor their father or mother’ with it. Thus you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition. 7 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

8 “‘These people honor me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.  
9 They worship me in vain;  
their teachings are merely human rules.’

- What did Jesus teach on this commandment?
- What is the issue with what the Pharisees are teaching?



### Matthew 12:46-50

<sup>46</sup> While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. <sup>48</sup> But he replied to the man who told him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” <sup>49</sup> And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”

- How does Jesus challenge the definition of what “family” is?
- Is this about *replacement* or *priority*?
- How does becoming a Christian change your earthly loyalties?



### Colossians 3:20-21

<sup>20</sup> Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

- To whom is our primary and ultimate obedience rightly given?
- How does it please the LORD to obey parents “in everything?”



### 1 Timothy 5:4-8

<sup>4</sup> But if a widow has children or grandchildren, these should learn first of all to put their religion into practice by caring for their own family and so repaying their parents and grandparents, for this is pleasing to God.

<sup>8</sup> But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

- How is caring for your own family pleasing to God?
- How is a lack of provision for relatives a denial of faith and worse than an unbeliever?



## Summary: Why we obey this command?



**J. I. Packer**

Why does God highlight the duty to “love, honor, and succour my father and mother” (as the Catechism puts it)? For many reasons.

First, the **family is the basic social unit**; no nation is stable or virile where family life is weak.

Second, the **family is the basic spiritual unit**, in which God makes parents their children’s pastors and teachers.

Third, children do in fact owe their parents a huge **debt of gratitude** for years of care and provision.

Fourth, children need **parental guidance** more than they know, and impoverish themselves by rejecting it. The long life promised in Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 5:16 to those who honor their parents is not guaranteed to any Christian, but it remains true that children who flout their parents suffer loss. They forfeit a degree of human maturity, and make it harder for themselves to honor a Father in heaven.

Fifth, in pre-social security days the aged had only their own children to provide for them; and even in the welfare state aging parents need their **children’s loving concern**, just as the children once needed their parents’ care.

(Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1994), p 255–256

Questions or Observations?



### 3. Applying it Today (Large Group)

#### TBAC 302: How should parents treat their children?

Earthly fathers and mothers should represent to their children the loving care of our heavenly Father by nurturing and protecting them, teaching and modeling to them the Christian faith and life, guiding and assisting them in education, and encouraging them in their lives and vocations. (*Genesis 48:8–16; Deuteronomy 6:4–7; Proverbs 19:18; 22:6; Matthew 3:13–17; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21; 1 Timothy 5:8*)

#### TBAC 304: How else do you love God in light of the fifth commandment?

I also keep the fifth commandment by showing respect for teachers and elders; by obeying, as far as is lawful, those who hold authority in the Church, my employment, and civil government; and by conducting myself in all things with reverent humility before God and my neighbor. (*Exodus 22:28; Matthew 22:15–22; Romans 13:1–7; 1 Timothy 2:1–2; 5:1–4; Hebrews 13:7; 1 Peter 2:13–15; Articles of Religion, 37*)

### TBAC 305: What blessings result from obeying the fifth commandment?

Submission to God's appointed earthly authorities helps me to resist pride and grow in humility, and promotes the justice and peace (*shalom*) of society in which human life flourishes. (*Exodus 20:12; 1 Chronicles 29:23; Proverbs 10:17; Romans 13:1-4; Hebrews 13:17*)

### TBAC 306: Does earthly authority have limits?

Yes. All authority comes from God, the King of kings, who expects me to love, honor, and obey him above all earthly authorities whenever they command me to sin. (*Exodus 1:15-21; Daniel 3:4-6, 16-18; Matthew 23:1-4; Acts 5:27-29; Revelation 18:1-4*)

- What new insights have you gained? What ways are you are being challenged?
- How did Jesus' life and obedience to his Father show us how to honor our parents?



## Review

### The Teaching of the Commandment

- The fifth commandment is "Honor your father and your mother."
- "Honor" means to "be heavy, weighty" – implying love, service, respect, and care.
- Is it a "positive" command and comes with a promise – "so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you" (*Exodus 20:12*).
- It is connected both to loving your neighbor and holiness.

### New Testament Fulfillment

- Jesus intensified and deepened our understanding of its importance in his rebuke to the Pharisees (*Matthew 15:3-9*) for placing human tradition ahead of the word of God.
- Further, Jesus broadens the definition of family to "whoever does the will of my Father in heaven" (*Matthew 12:46-50*).
- Jesus honored his parents while obeying His heavenly Father (*Luke 2:41-52*) and ensuring his mother's care, even as he died (*John 19:25-27*).
- Provision for relatives, especially for widows, was a serious concern of Paul in his advice to Timothy. (*1 Timothy 5:1-8*); lack of providing was a denial of the faith.

### Applying it to Today

- Parents should represent to their children the loving care of our heavenly Father.
- We also keep the fifth commandment in our obedience to authorities in our society.
- There is a parallel between the first commandment and the fifth commandment: submission to a higher authority.
- Godly submission to appointed authorities promotes peaceful flourishing (*shalom*).
- Authority is limited when sin is commanded, and human tradition is placed above the word of God.



## Closing Litany

**Leader** God spoke these words and said: I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other gods but me.

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**Leader** You shall not make for yourself any image or likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or worship them.

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**Leader** You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**Leader** Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Honour 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 neighbour.

You shall not covet.

**People** *Lord, have mercy upon us, and write your laws in our hearts we pray.*



## Life Practice

### Life Practice

- Consider the definition of “honor” again – “weighty” – (TBAC 301), implying love...respect...care...obedience. Pick one of these ways in which honoring is lived out. How might you do this “in the Lord” (Ephesians 6.1) this week?
- How might our ways of honoring our fathers and mothers point our neighbors to how they might honor God? How might Christians be “set apart” in how we honor our parents from our surrounding culture?
- If you are a parent, read Deuteronomy 18 – what is one area of your life as a parent where you might “lay up the words” of the Lord in the hearts of your Children? Think of your daily or yearly routines – family meals, gatherings, occasions.

