

THE TEN [PART 2]

a fresh look at the 10 COMMANDMENTS

Name:

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

FALL 2019 [PART 2]

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RESOURCES

The main research used in creating this Life Group Guide was from "The 10 Commandments: What They Mean, Why They Matter, and Why We Should Obey Them" by Kevin DeYoung

LETTER FROM KEITH

We are called to love God and love others! At WCC, we talk about this all the time when we seek to ignite a passion for Jesus, the Bible, the Church and Others. What's amazing is that when you read the Bible, it is filled with instructions on how to love our God and how to love those around us. One of the most memorable moments of telling us how to do that is the giving of the TEN Commandments.

Many of us have heard these commands and may be able to recite most of them. Some may just think of them as a list of do's and don'ts from their childhood. There is a chance you may not have ever heard them! Here's the amazing thing: God gave us the TEN Commandments so we would know the best way to love Him! He also gave them to His people so they would know the best way to love and treat one-another.

While the commands are simple and appear to be straight forward in their instruction, we are going to spend time unpacking them, giving them a fresh look for our Life Group series this Fall. Let's face it, if you check out the latest news headlines, you will see the need for these commands to be taught and lived out perhaps now more than ever!

Each week will be a fresh challenge for how we can obey God's timeless commands in a world and culture that simply ignores or resists authority. Our prayer for this series is that you would grow in your love for God and your love for others. Blessings,

Keith Comp

Senior Minister

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

The purpose of this guide is to provide a tool for you to use in your daily walk with Jesus. Use this for your quiet time, daily devotional, Life Group discussion, or even family discussions. You will develop healthy study habits as you engage with God's Word through this workbook.

SERMON NOTES:

Bring this workbook to church each Sunday. As you listen to the sermon, make a note when you hear something that surprises you, intrigues you, bothers you, challenges you, or encourages you. Use this as a starting point for your group discussion and personal study during the week.

CONNECT QUESTIONS:

These questions will help you and your group members become more comfortable talking and sharing with each other. Not only will you learn more about one-another, the questions will help to steer the discussion in the direction of the topic.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION:

These questions are the "meat" of the discussion and will point back to the sermon each week. Feel free to read and answer these questions before your group meets. They will also help you dig deeper into the Scriptures during your group discussions.

CHANGE QUESTIONS:

Passion leads people to significant actions. At the end of Jesus' most famous sermon, he says that if you do not put his words into practice then you are a fool [Matthew 7:24-27]. Life transformation is the ultimate goal of a follower of Christ. This happens through personal reflection and a genuine response to what you have heard from God. Feel free to answer these questions out-loud when your leader reads them or you can quietly reflect and write a response in your workbook. This is the time to go deep and make it personal!

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER:

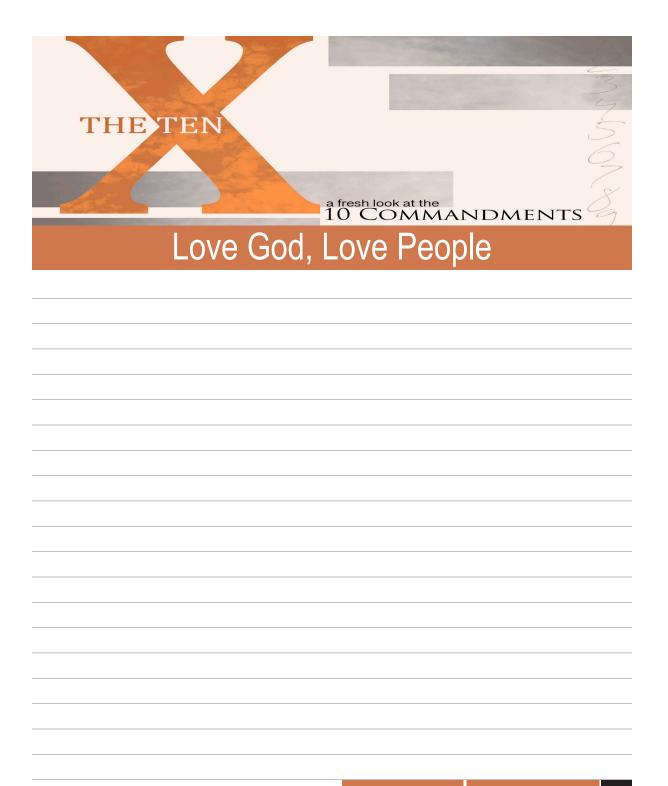
Please focus this time on *your own personal* praises and requests instead of listing all of the bad things that happened to someone you know. We challenge you to get "deep" with one-another relationally, which means becoming a little bit vulnerable as you are honest with one-another.

PRAY FOR THE MISSIONS OF THE WEEK:

WCC supports many wonderful missionaries and organizations all over the world. We are committed to support them with our finances as well as our prayers and encouragement. Ask God to work in their lives and through their ministries to ignite a passion for Jesus in others.

DAILY DEVOTION:

Be consistent, honest, and intentional with this time and you will not regret it. The whole point of this workbook is to make the sermons and Scriptures stick with you in your daily walk with Christ. Digging in to God's Word and applying it to your daily life is perhaps the best way to solidify His truth into your heart and your life.



LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

CONNECT QUESTIONS

- 1. What is your favorite movie? How would you summarize it in one sentence to someone who has never seen it?
- 2. Have every person in your group choose a famous movie and then search for it on imdb.com. Read the 1-2 sentence summary to your group and have everyone guess the movie.
- 3. If you had to summarize every law, rule, and command in your home, how would you summarize it?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1.	What have y	you learned about the first 5 commandments in the pa	ast few weeks?
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2. Read Matthew 22:34-40. How do the first 4 commandments connect with Jesus' words? How do the last 6 commandments connect?

3. Can you quote the WCC mission statement? How do you see this relating to The TEN and Jesus' summary of the Old Testament laws?

4.	Read Matthew 15:16-20. What does Jesus say is the root cause of these sins? How can we treat this symptom?
5.	Read Colossians 3:1-4. What does this have to do with obeying the TEN commandments?
6.	Read Colossians 3:5-11. Which of the TEN commandments do you recognize in these lists?
7.	Read Colossians 3:12-14. In the previous section we are told to put to death everything from the earthly nature. What help does this section promise to us?

- 1. Which of the upcoming commandments do you think may have a big impact on you?
- 2. Do you struggle more to love God with all of your heart, or to love others as yourself?
- 3. Which of the 4 parts of the WCC mission statement do you need to work on in your life? [Jesus, Bible, Church, Others]

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

HOPE Ministries Food Pantry

HOPE provides families in St. Charles county assistance with food and physical needs. You can donate non-perishable food items to this ministry by visiting the food cart in the WCC café. Take home a bag and bring it back with the items requested for the month.

DAY 1:

"The Lord hates six things; in fact, seven are detestable to him: arrogant eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that plots wicked schemes, feet eager to run to evil, a lying witness who gives false testimony, and one who stirs up trouble among brothers." [Proverbs 6:16-19 NIV]

God hates all sin, but this indicates that he especially hates certain sins. Does it shock you to hear that God hates something? How do each of these relate to The TEN?

If God were to give a list of

your top sins that he hates,

what would be on the list?

Pray for power in the Holy

Spirit to overcome the hold

those sins have in your life.

DAY 2:

"And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."
[1 John 4:21 NIV]

John makes it pretty clear that love for God must result in love for others. Have you ever seen people who claim to know God but do not love others?

Whom do you struggle to love unconditionally? Which types of people do you struggle to love unconditionally? Ask God for a heart of love for others today.

DAY 3:

"He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself." [Luke 10:27 NIV]

What do you think it means to love God with all of your heart? Soul? Strength? Mind?

Which do you need to work on today? Spend time with God today!

DAY 4:

"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."
[Matthew 7:12 NIV]

DAY 5:

"Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment." [Matthew 7:37-38 NIV]

DAY 6.

"And the second is like it:
'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40All the Law and the
Prophets hang on these two
commandments."
[Matthew 7:39-40 NIV]

- Why do you think this statement is an adequate summary of the entire OT Law? Besides being nice to people, what else could this mean for us today?
- Why do you think loving God is the first and greatest commandment? Why do you think this relates to the first commandments God gives to Moses and the Israelites?
- Why do you think loving your neighbor as yourself is the second commandment and not the first?

- How can you treat others the way you would want to be treated today? How can you go further than just being nice to others?
- Notice Jesus says to love "the Lord your God." Why wouldn't he just say "love God"? What does it mean for you to love THE Lord YOUR God today?
- Does your heart for God spill over into a lifestyle of love for others? How can you share the love of God today?



WEEK 6 - MURDER

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1.	Do you like to watch crime shows or read murder mystery novels? Which are your
	favorite?

- 2. Why do you think there is such a fascination with serial killers in our society?
- 3. Who was your arch-enemy in your school or neighborhood growing up? What made you hate each other?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think people have an innate belief that murder is wrong?

2. If this is an innate belief that almost all people and all cultures have, why would it make the top TEN list of God's commandments?

3. What do you think is the difference between killing and murder? Why is that distinction important for this commandment?

4.	Should this be interpreted as a rigid restriction of any type of killing no matter the circumstance? What are some exceptions you see in the Bible?
5.	Though there may be some disagreement in your group, what are some general situations where this commandment should not apply today?
6.	Other than murder in general, there were 3 specific types of murder mentioned in the sermon. What does the rest of the Bible say about each of these controversial topics?
7.	Read Matthew 5:21-22. How does Jesus deepen and illuminate the original commandment?
8.	Read Matthew 5:23-26. How does Jesus use these illustrations to show the extreme importance we should place on anger?

- 1. What types of people do you find it difficult to show love to? Whom do you specifically struggle to love?
- 2. What relationships have been affected by your anger? How can you reconcile?
- 3. How can you prevent your thoughts and actions from becoming angry or hurtful this week?

PRAY FOR ONF-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

Jireh India Missions

This ministry in India shares the good news of Jesus with those who have never heard His name. They provide homes and education for orphans at House of Peace, teach widows to sew so they can provide for their children, provide bread for much of their community through Five Loaves Bakery, and work with a leper colony. They strive to fulfill Psalm 82:3 — *Defend the poor and orphans; do justice to the afflicted and needy*. We have a team of 6 people from WCC going to India October 24 - November 5 to work with and encourage Jireh.

DAY 1: **DΔY 2**· **DAY 3:** "Whoever claims to love "You have heard that it was "Again, anyone who says to God vet hates a brother or said to the people long ago, a brother or sister. 'Raca.' sister is a liar. For whoever 'You shall not murder, and is answerable to the court. does not love their brothanyone who murders will And anyone who says, 'You be subject to judgment.' fool!' will be in danger of the er and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, But I tell you that anyone fire of hell." whom they have not seen." who is angry with a brother [Matthew 5:22b NIV] [1 John 4:20 NIV] or sister will be subject to judgment." [Matthew 5:21-22a NIV] According to John, what The basic command of not Jesus continues to explain makes us a liar? This seems murdering still applies to hatred by giving examples. harsh, but why do you think us today. How did Jesus How does anger lead to it is true? expand this command in angry words, which leads vs. 22? to sin? Does the way you treat oth-Why do you think Jesus Do your words or thoughts ers reflect how you treat talks about judgment with indicate hatred toward God? How will you show this sin? Do you take hatred others? How can you turn love today? seriously? these emotions into love and concern for others?

DAY 4.

"Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble." [1 John 2:9-10 NIV]

DAY 5.

"But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them."
[1 John 2:11 NIV]

DAY 6:

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."
[Matthew 5:43-44 NIV]

- Why do you think John uses the imagery of light and darkness for those who claim to follow God but still have hatred in their hearts?
- A popular saying is "hatred clouds your judgment." When have you found this to be true? How does this statement relate to the verse above?
- Jesus could have just said "do not hate." Why do you think he expanded his commands in verse 44?

- Is getting rid of hatred in our life enough? How does vs. 10 turn a negative command into a positive command? How can you do this today?
- Darkness is the absence of light, which is blinding. How can you seek truth, light, and love in your heart and mind today?
- When was the last time you prayed for someone you did not like? When was the last time you loved and prayed for someone who harmed you? Do this today!



WEEK 7 - ADULTERY

CONNECT QUESTIONS

- 1. When was a time from your childhood you did something wrong and then tried to cover it up?
- 2. How does our culture treat adultery and marriage? What examples do you see from movies and TV shows?
- 3. When have you removed an object from your house so you are not tempted? [Ex: junk food, soda, credit card, etc.]

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1.	Last week we talked about how the commandment against murder is more than
	what is on the surface. How is that also true with this commandment?

2. Read Matthew 5:27-30. How does Jesus expand our understanding of this commandment?

3. King David committed adultery and then murdered his lover's husband. Read God's reaction in 2 Samuel 12:9. Why is David told that he "despised" the Word of the Lord? How is the word "despised" different than disobeyed or disregarded?

4.	Read Matthew 19:1-8. What do Jesus' words teach us about how God views marriage? Adultery? Divorce?
5.	In your opinion, what is the greatest threat to marriage and family today? Why?
6.	Do you think it is possible to commit adultery without having physical relations? Is it possible to commit adultery without having sexual thoughts?
7.	How would you define lust of the heart? What can we do to avoid this?
8.	Read Matthew 5:29-30. Jesus gives some harsh commands about how to deal with lust. How does this figurative imagery show the seriousness of lust and adultery?

- 1. When has adultery in your heart led you to sinful actions?
- 2. What are some things in your life that you need to gouge out, cut off, or throw away?
- 3. How can you honor God and your spouse with your thoughts and actions this week?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

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PRAY FOR THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

LOVEtheLOU

LOVEtheLOU is a community development initiative that connects resources to the needs of St. Louis. During the constant process of growth and development, they strive to see St. Louis restored through transforming actions. LTL is proud of the progress in St. Louis and is excited about what will continue to happen as they grow and develop. <u>lovethelou.org</u>

DΔY 3· DAY 1: **DΔY 2**· "Marriage should be hon-"Or do you not know that "For out of the heart come ored by all, and the marthe unrighteous will not evil thoughts--murder, inherit the kingdom of God? riage bed kept pure, for God adultery, sexual immoralwill judge the adulterer and ity, theft, false testimony, Do not be deceived: neither all the sexually immoral." the sexually immoral, nor slander." [Hebrews 13:4 NIV] idolaters, nor adulterers, [Matthew 15:19 NIV] nor men who practice homosexuality." [1 Corinthians 6:9 NIV] Why do you think Jesus Do you think our culture Why do you think Paul honors marriage? How can warns us to not be derefers to our hearts when Christians ensure marriage ceived? How are people talking about sexual sins is honored by all? deceived by the definitions [and other sins]? of sexual immorality today? What does it mean to keep How does the warning of Your physical actions may the marriage bed pure? not inheriting the kingdom not be sinful, but what How can you do this with of God bring seriousness to about your thoughts? Is your thoughts and actions? adultery and sexual immoyour heart pure? Is your rality? heart clean?

DAY 4: "Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body."

[1 Corinthians 6:18 NIV]

Why do you think Paul says sexual sins are more harmful than other sins? When have you seen this to be true with yourself or others?

DAY 5.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."
[Matthew 5:27-28 NIV]

What is the basic definition of adultery? What is Jesus' expanded definition?

DAY 6:

"Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts." [2 Timothy 2:22 NLT]

In what situations are you tempted to lust? How can you avoid those situations and run from them today?

- Flee! Run! Go the other way! When you are inching toward sexual immorality is this your first response? It should be!
- Why is Jesus so concerned with our heart and not just our actions? How can you avoid adultery and lust today?
- What are we to fill our hearts and minds with instead of sexual lust? How can you pursue these today? How can companionship with Christians who have pure hearts help you?



WEEK 8 - STEALING

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1.	Did you ever stea	I anything as a	a child? Share	vour story	with the s	group.

- 2. Has anything ever been stolen from you? How did it make you feel?
- 3. How is stealing more complex to define now than when The TEN were written?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1.	When we first hear of stealing, we think of taking a physical object away from
	someone else. What are some non-conventional ways of stealing?

2. What kind of ways do people justify their stealing today, especially with intellectual property?

3. Read Exodus 20:15. Every culture in history has some sort of laws or ethical codes against stealing. Why do you think stealing is such a big deal?

4.	Does stealing hurt God like it hurts other people? Why is God concerned with how we treat others?
5.	Read Ephesians 4:17-24. How does Paul contrast our lives before and after Christ?
6.	Read Ephesians 4:25-28. Which of The TEN do you recognize in these words from Paul? How does Paul's explanations for each of these show how sin affects those around us?
7.	According to verse 28, what is the reason we are to stop stealing?
8.	In light of Paul's reason for not stealing, what do you think this statement means: "you can do nothing wrong, and still do nothing right"?

- 1. When are you tempted to cut corners? Work? Home? Family?
- 2. How can you be productive in order to share with those who are in need?
- 3. How is God convicting you to stop stealing this week? What do you need to start or stop doing?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

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PRAY FOR THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

Christian Prison Ministry of Mid-America

Christian Prison Ministry of Mid-America reaches 28 prisons across 3 states. CPMM's goal is to evangelize, encourage, and equip the believers in all of these prisions. To date, over 400 inmates have been baptized! christianprisonministryofmissouri.org

DAY 1:

"But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people." [Ephesians 5:3 NIV]

The word for "greed" is literally "covetousness." Why is this improper for God's holy people?

DAY 2:

"What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God."
[James 4:1-2 NIV]

When have you gotten in trouble because of your desires for something you did not have? How did that affect relationships with others?

DAY 3.

"Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need."

[Ephesians 4:28 NIV]

How does stealing affect those in the community? Instead of stealing, what should the thief do with his/her hands?

- The literal wording says these things should not even be named among God's saints. Would others be able to name greed or impurity when talking about your life?
- What other sins do coveting and stealing lead to? What internal battles do you need to fight against today?
- What is the benefit to the community when a person does something useful? How can you share with those in need today?

DAY 4.

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."

[1 Timothy 6:10 NIV]

DAY 5:

"The Lord said to Moses: "If anyone sins and is unfaithful to the Lord by deceiving a neighbor about something entrusted to them or left in their care or about something stolen, or if they cheat their neighbor... They must make restitution in full."
[Leviticus 6:1-2, 5 NIV]

DAY 6:

"Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! "But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' "You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me." [Malachi 3:8 NLT]

- What are some other kinds of evil that are birthed by the love of money?
- What are some other ways people may steal even though they do not physically take an object away from another person? Which of these have you done?
- In what ways is God accusing people of cheating him? Notice the people did not realize they were cheating God. When have you cheated God?

- Are you eager for money? Has it caused you many griefs? Have you wandered from your faith? How can you come back?
- God ordered the thief to pay full restitution, plus 1/5th, and go to the temple to purchase a sacrifice from the priest. What restitution do you need to make with others?
- Do you tithe to God's ministry? Do you give offerings? What do you need to give back to God this week?



WEEK 9 - LYING

CONNECT QUESTIONS

1. (Can	you	think	of	any	scenarios	when	it	is	glorifying	to	God	to	lie?	Explain
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- 2. What are some situations when people would be tempted to lie and easily justify it?
- 3. How does lying effect relationships, regardless of the reason behind the lie?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Look back at the previous commandments in Exodus 20:3-16. In your opinion, how important do you think this commandment is compared to the others? Explain.

2. Read this commandment again. Carefully. This commandment is often mis-quoted with "Thou shalt not lie." Why do you think it is worded the way it is?

3. Does this commandment only prohibit a certain type of lying? What other Scriptures come to mind when you think of this commandment?

4.	Read Ephesians 4:20-25. How does the word "therefore" connect verse 25 with the verses before it? What does this mean for us?
5.	Read verse 25 again. Why does Paul say "for we are all members of one body" after talking about falsehood and speaking truthfully?
6.	Read Colossians 3:5-10. What does lying to one-another have to do with our new lifestyle as a Christian?
7.	Based on what you heard in the sermon, how would you explain the importance of this commandment to someone?

- 1. In what ways are you tempted to bear false witness at work? At home? In your personal life?
- 2. How can you be filled with the truth in all of your words and actions this week?
- 3. With whom do you need to be more truthful? In what situations do you need to be truthful?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

Outreach International - Mexico | Josh & Susan Sanchez

This mission, called Me & My House Ministries, is a church plant in Colima City. Their goal is to begin a church planting movement within the region.

DAY 1. **DΔY 2**· DAY 3. "Do not lie to each other, "Therefore each of you must "You used to walk in these since you have taken off ways, in the life you once put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, your old self with its practiclived. But now you must es and have put on the new also rid yourselves of all for we are all members of self, which is being renewed such things as these: anger, one body." in knowledge in the image rage, malice, slander, and [Ephesians 4:25 NIV] of its Creator." filthy language from your [Colossians 3:9-10 NIV] lips." [Colossians 3:7-8 NIV] What reason is given as to Why do you think slander How does lying affect those why we are to stop lying to around us? When have you and filthy language are one-another? signs of a person who still been impacted by falselives according to their old hood? ways? Have you been renewed Slander is making a false Notice we are to speak in the knowledge of God? statement that is harmful truth and not just avoid Have you put on your new to someone. When have lying. When have you kept self in Christ? What should the truth from someone? you done this? How can you that lead you to do or not rid yourself of this sinful When, where, and to whom do this week? habit? do you need to speak truth to this week?

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DAY 4: "The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy." [Proverbs 12:22 NIV]			Y 5: Il you need to say is sim- y 'Yes' or 'No'; anything yond this comes from the il one." latthew 5:37 NIV]	DAY 6: "No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence." [Psalm 101:7 NIV]			
•	God hates lying! Why do you think he delights in the truth?	•	When have you needed to convince someone you were telling the truth? What did it take for them to believe you?	•	What is the difference between practicing deceit and speaking falsely? When have you done these?		
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		_		_			
•	Would those around you say you are trustworthy? How can you build a reputation of trustworthiness in your words and actions this week?	>	Jesus wants our words and actions to be so truthful that we do not need to swear to people or make emphatic promises? How can you let your actions and simple words speak for you today?	>	How should the seriousness of this verse impact your words today? How will you speak truthfully and not act deceptively?		
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		_		_			



WEEK 10 - COVETING

CONNECT QUESTIONS

- 1. When you were a child, what was something you desperately wanted but never received?
- 2. When have you made a poor financial decision because of something you thought you needed?
- 3. How many advertisements do you think you see each day? List all of the places you see advertisements throughout the day.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Is it always sinful to want something you do not have? When does an innocent desire turn into a sinful desire?

2. How is this commandment different from the others? What does this teach us about God's desire for us?

3. Read Exodus 20:17. How is the tenth commandment related to the first commandment?

4.	Why do you think God gives those specific examples as an explanation to this commandment? What examples do you think he would give to our culture today?
5.	Money or possessions may be the first thing we think of when we are told not to covet. What are other things we can covet which becomes sinful?
6.	What are other commandments in which coveting may lead us to break?
7.	What do you think is the opposite of coveting? How is that implied in the explanation of this commandment?
8.	Read Philippians 4:10-13. How does Paul give an example of what it looks like to live a life free of coveting? How does this help us understand verse 13 better?

- 1. When has coveting led you to bitterness, disappointment, and sinful behavior?
- 2. How has God blessed you? What blessings do you have that others may covet?
- 3. What do you think are some good things in life that God wants you to desire?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]

PRAY FOR THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

Shiloh Christian Children's Ranch

Located in Kahoka and Clarence, MO, Shiloh is a safe haven for abused and neglected children, and includes six homes for children, two relief homes, and an onsite school. shilohranch.org

Show-Me Christian Youth Home

This faith-based organization seeks to improve the lives of children struggling because of circumstances in their current home environment. showmehelpingkids.com

DAILY DEVOTION [DAYS 1-3] DAY 1. **DΔY 2**· DAY 3. "I know what it is to be in "And he said to them, 'Take "Command those who are care, and be on your guard rich in this present world need, and I know what it against all covetousness, for not to be arrogant nor to is to have plenty. I have put their hope in wealth, learned the secret of being one's life does not consist in the abundance of his poswhich is so uncertain, but content in any and every sessions." to put their hope in God, situation, whether well fed [Luke 12:15 ESV] who richly provides us with or hungry, whether living in everything for our enjoyplenty or in want." ment." [Philippians 4:12 NIV] [1 Timothy 6:17 NIV] Do you ever define or judge Why is wealth in this world Paul lived as a rich man and a poor man. Could you people by their possessions? so uncertain? Have you honestly say you would be Do you purchase things so been guilty of placing your others will define you by hope in something else content or joyful if you your possessions? besides God? were poor, hungry, and in need? What does it look like for What do you think it means When can you say you were you to be on guard against for God to provide everycompletely content with all covetousness? How can thing you need for enjoyyour life? What do you truly ment? What has he blessed you be aware and cautious need in order to have conof it? you with? tentment and completion

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today?

DΔY 5· DAY 6. DAY 4. "Do not store up for your-"But store up for yourselves "Command them to do good, to be rich in good selves treasures on earth. treasures in heaven, where where moths and vermin moths and vermin do not deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this destroy, and where thieves destroy, and where thieves break in and steal." do not break in and steal. way they will lay up treasure [Matthew 6:19 NIV] For where your treasure for themselves as a firm is, there your heart will be foundation for the coming also." age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly [Matthew 6:20-21 NIV] life." [1 Timothy 6:18-19 NIV] What are some byproducts Who is someone you know What are some things you of a person who covets and that was/is rich with are stingy or selfish with? desires to have a lot of eternal treasures instead Would people describe you possessions? What are the of earthly treasures? What as a generous and sharing dangers of greed, stingiwere/are they like to be person? ness, and hoarding? around? What earthly "treasures" When has your heart led Paul says those who are do you have because you you to treasure the wrong generous and invest in etercoveted them but are now thing? How can you realign nal treasures take hold of wasting away or worthvour heart to seek eternal the true life. What do you less? What should you have treasures today? think this means? How can placed your hope in? you take hold of it?