EXODUS 20 · FOR KIDS

The Ten Commandments

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." Exodus 20:2

LOVE GOD

1 Put God first.
Nothing and no one is more important than God — not toys, not screens, not winning.

2 Don't make pretend gods.
Long ago people made statues and prayed to them. God says: worship me, not things you can hold in your hands.

3 Use God's name carefully.
God's name is special. We don't use it to be silly, to be angry, or to make people believe something that isn't true.

4 Rest one day a week.
God made everything in six days and rested on the seventh. He wants us to stop, rest, and remember him too.

FIVE PAIRS ON FIVE FINGERS

Two commandments per finger, thumb to little finger. Say the pairs aloud once a day for a week, tapping each finger.

LOVE PEOPLE

5 Respect your mom and dad.
Listen to them, speak kindly to them, and look after them — even when you're grown up.

6 Don't hurt people.
Every person is made by God. We protect life; we don't take it, and we don't hate.

7 Keep your promises — especially in a family.
When a husband and wife promise to love only each other, that promise is meant to be kept for life.

8 Don't take what isn't yours.
If it belongs to someone else, ask — or leave it where it is.

9 Tell the truth.
Don't lie about anyone, and never say something untrue to get someone else in trouble.

10 Be glad with what you have.
Don't want your friend's things so much that it makes you grumpy, unkind, or sneaky.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR KIDS

Questions to talk about, by age

A list learned by heart is a start. Conversation is what turns it into something a child actually believes.

Ages 4–6

- What did God do for his people before he gave them the commandments?
- When is it hard to tell the truth? What helps you tell it?
- What good things do you have today that you can thank God for?

Ages 7–10

- Why do you think the first four commandments are about God and the last six are about people?
- What does putting God first look like on an ordinary school day?
- If a friend has something you really want, how can you be glad for them instead of getting upset?

Ages 11 and up

- Why do you think God rescued his people first and gave them the commandments afterward? What would change if it were the other way round?
- Hardly anyone prays to a statue today. What things can take God's place in a person's life?
- Jesus said that being angry with a brother also has to do with "You shall not murder" (Matthew 5:21–22). Why do you think he went beyond what can be seen on the outside?

Let the answers be imperfect. The goal is not a correct child but a thinking one, who has watched a grown-up take the same list seriously.

About the numbers. This list follows the numbering most Protestant and Orthodox churches use. The Catholic Church counts differently: it joins "no other gods" and "no idols" into the first commandment and divides coveting into two. The words of the Bible are the same in both.