

# The Ten Commandments for Children

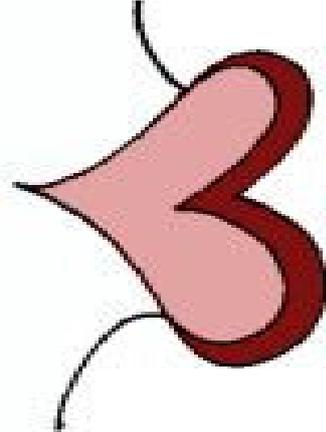
1. Thou shalt have no other gods



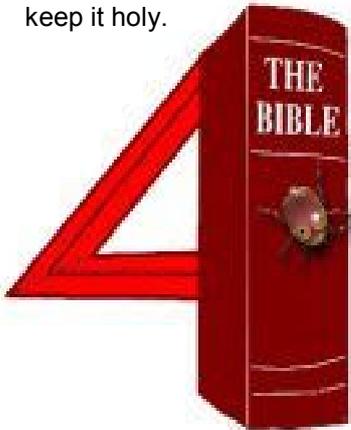
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee



3. Thou shalt not take the Name of



4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.



5. Honor thy mother and father.



6. Thou shalt not kill.



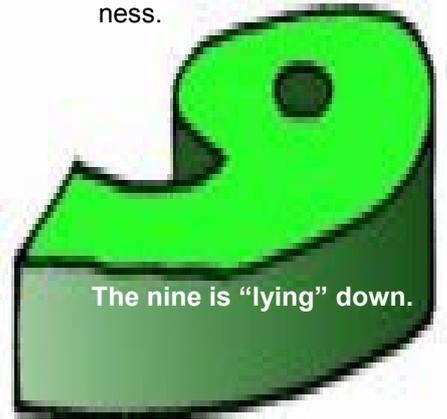
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.



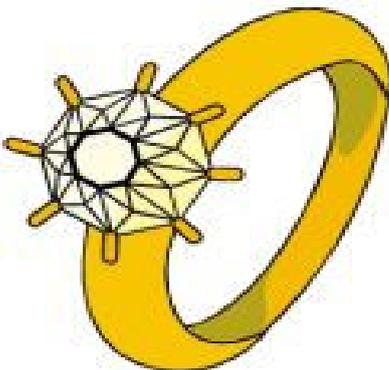
8. Thou shalt not steal.



9. Thou shalt not bear false witness.



10. Thou shalt not covet.



# Teaching the Commandments

*“Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” -Galatians 3:24*

Teach the following commandments to your children. They need not know the verse references. Use God’s law as a schoolmaster that will lead your children to Christ. Have even your young children memorize them. God will use these commandments in their hearts later, even if they do not understand the words now. The law is the mirror that shows us our deep need of the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1. Q. What is the first commandment of God’s moral Law?**

*A. Thou shalt have no other gods before me (Exodus 20:3).*

**2. Q. What is the second commandment?**

*A. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image (Exodus 20:4).*

**3. Q. What is the third commandment?**

*A. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain (Exodus 20:7).*

**4. Q. What is the fourth commandment?**

*A. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy (Exodus 20:8).*

**5. Q. What is the fifth commandment?**

*A. Honor thy father and thy mother (Exodus 20:12).*

**6. Q. What is the sixth commandment?**

*A. Thou shalt not kill (Exodus 20:13).*

**7. Q. What is the seventh commandment?**

*A. Thou shalt not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14).*

**8. Q. What is the eighth commandment?**

*A. Thou shalt not steal (Exodus 20:15).*

**9. Q. What is the ninth commandment?**

*A. Thou shalt not bear false witness (Exodus 20:16).*

**10. Q. What is the tenth commandment?**

*A. Thou shalt not covet (Exodus 20:17).*

The purpose of the law is not to make us righteous—it is to act as a mirror to show our sin stain, and our need for Christ.

“The Law is also very useful, because it shows us our defections and stains. It is like the looking-glass which my lady holds up to her face, that she may see if there be any spot on it. But she cannot wash her face with the looking-glass. When the mirror has done its utmost then there are the same stains. It cannot take away a single spot, it can only show where one is. And the Law, though it reveals our sin, our shortcomings, our transgressions, it cannot remove the sin or the transgression. It is weak for that purpose, because it was never intended to accomplish such an end.”  
- CHARLES SPURGEON

After giving the 10 Commandments, Moses says in Deuteronomy 6:4-7, “*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*” We also ought to teach God’s law diligently to our children.

# Explaining the Commandments

*“Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.” - Romans 3:19-20*

Have your child or children learn to explain the commandments in simple terms. I like to begin with number 10 and go backwards.

## **10. Q. What does it mean to covet?**

*A. It means to whine and fuss and get my own way. It means to be greedy and selfish and self-centered, never thinking of others.*

## **9. Q. What does it mean to bear false witness?**

*A. It means to tell lies, to be sneaky, to hide the truth, to exaggerate the truth, or not tell the whole truth.*

## **8. Q. What does it mean to steal?**

*A. It means to take something that belongs to someone else without their permission. Someone who steals is called a thief. The heart of a thief is never to share or to give to others, but to take and be selfish. This is especially seen when children are playing with toys. If someone takes your toy, what should you do? You should give them two, because Jesus said, “if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you” (Matt. 5:41-42).*

## **7. Q. What does it mean to commit adultery?**

*A. It means to leave your husband or your wife. God tells mommies and daddies to stay together forever, because God has joined them together (Matt. 19:6). God also says that we are not to commit spiritual adultery and turn our back on Him (James 4:4). [For older children you can also tell them that Jesus tells us that if we look on another person with lust we have committed adultery with them already in our heart—Matt. 5:28].*

## **6. Q. What does it mean to kill?**

*A. It means to take someone’s life or to murder. But Jesus says, we are not even to call someone a bad name. Jesus says that’s the same thing as murder because we are discounting them as a human being—Matt. 5:21-22.*

## **5. Q. What does it mean to honor father and mother?**

*A. It means to obey them—immediately, completely, and sweetly (with a happy attitude).*

## **4. Q. What does it mean to keep the Sabbath day holy?**

*A. It means to dedicate one day out of seven to God for His worship with His people. Since the creation of the world, all of God’s people have given God a day to reflect on Him and worship Him. Christians worship on Sunday because it is the day that Jesus rose from the dead.*

## **3. Q. What does it mean not to take God’s Name in vain?**

*A. It means to blaspheme God’s name and treat it in a common way. We are forbidden from referring to God or any of His works or attributes in a vain way. We are not to say things like, “O my Word” for God’s Word is sacred, or “Mercy me!” because God’s mercy is sacred. We are not to say “O Gosh” because a euphemism is the same as saying the actual word. There are many other ways of blaspheming God, such as in curse words. It is also taking God’s Name in vain for a person to call themselves a Christian and live contrary to God.*

## **2. Q. What does it mean not to make graven images?**

*A. It means to make God in man’s image, or to twist my understanding of Him to be like a created being. I can do this by making a statue of wood or stone and calling it God. Or I can simply say, “To me God is...” and decide what I want God to be. God has revealed Himself to us in the Bible alone. To change what He is in my own imagination is idolatry.*

## **1. Q. What does it mean to have no other gods before God?**

*A. It means to seek God first above all other things and people.*