

# WATER•FIRE•STONE

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MOSES

## Session 10 – Indispensable Truth, Part Two | Exodus 20:12–14

Guardrails and Rumble Strips | How do you view the Ten Commandments? Some people see a rigid set of stone cold rules and regulations you have to keep if you want God to love and approve of you. But Jesus already accomplished that for us.

Through faith in what only Jesus can do, we've been made right in God's sight and we have peace with God (Romans 5:1–2). Now we can live in obedience and a loving relationship with Him.

The commandments are more like guardrails that keep us from plunging off a cliff, and rumble strips to protect sleepy and distracted drivers from drifting off the road or into oncoming traffic.

In our three-part series, *Indispensable Truth*, we explore why God's law is still our moral compass. The commandments aren't an escape route for slaves trying to get out of Egypt—they're a road map for free people to stay free.

### Icebreaker

Choose which best describes your driving style through life:

- Slow and steady.  Fast and furious.  Go with the flow.  In for the long haul.
- Watch the road, people! Stay safe!  Tailgate and change lanes frequently.
- Fueled up, tuned up, ready to go.

### Goals for this Session

- Discover where our motivation for obeying the Ten Commandments comes from.
- Consider the implications of the way we live and what we pass on to the next generation.
- Pray honest prayers that seek forgiveness, embrace grace and freedom to live in love.

**1** During His life on earth, Jesus obeyed God's law perfectly in every way. He is the only One who ever truly has! We don't earn our salvation and we are not forced to obey the Law out of obligation, but we are compelled to obey because of His deep love for us.

When people see the practical differences that loving God can make in our marriages, families, and relationships, what does that say about Jesus? What does that say about us?

John 13:34–35

John 17:13–18

1 John 5:3–4

**2** The first command that addresses our relationship with others begins with family. Here, God underscores His purpose for the family. This commandment promises a blessing that applies to individuals and the nation as well.

God was telling Israel that if they honor His plan for the family, their communities would flourish and the nation would thrive.

- a. Exodus 20:12 | **Honor your father and your mother.** The role of a parent comes with a heavy, God-given responsibility; in many ways, we represent God to our children.

We are the first to teach them right from wrong and what it is to be loved. Discuss how a child's relationship with their parents can impact their relationship with God.

- b. God designed the parent-child relationship to be positive, nurturing, and wholesome. For some, this wasn't their experience growing up. Regardless of how honorable a mother or father is, God says you will be blessed for honoring them.

The most honoring thing we can do for our parents is to obey God. Consider what we, as believers, can do to obey God's command to honor your father and mother. Express your thoughts on the following suggestions.

Pray for them.

Learn from them.

Forgive them.

Be intentional to maintain and improve relations with them.

Express appreciation for them.

### 3 Read Deuteronomy 6:4–9 | As parents, our primary responsibility is to shape and equip our children to set their hope in God. It begins with us.

- a. From verses 4–5, what is personally essential for us in order to model the gospel for them?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. List some practical ways we can teach the next generation to know and apply God’s Word in normal, everyday life. If you are currently raising children or grandchildren, what works best for you? What has been most challenging?

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It is easier to build a child than repair an adult. May God help us to take up that God-given mantle of spiritual leadership in the home and be the parents we were meant to be.

What if your child grew up to be the same kind of Christian you are today? Would you be pleased? If not, some changes need to be made.

Greg Laurie

### Memory Verse

“Honor your father and mother,  
that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.  
You shall not murder.  
You shall not commit adultery.”  
Exodus 20:12–14 NKJV

Which part of this verse resonates most with you today? How or in what way?

**4** Read Exodus 20:13 | **You shall not murder.** God forbids the taking of a human life for no justifiable reason. Life is precious because it is from God, who gives life and breath to all people. As Paul simply said to men who worshipped creation instead of their Creator, “In Him we live and move and exist” (Acts 17:28 NLT).

The core of this command is understanding the value of human life and being committed to preserve and protect it.

- a. This commandment does not forbid all taking of life. According to Scripture, there are times when death is an appropriate measure. The Law included provisions for capital punishment, self-defense, and war. Use the verses below to explain the difference between murder and the lawful taking of life.

Genesis 9:6

Exodus 17:8–16

Romans 13:4

- b. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus goes a step further with the commandment against murder. According to Matthew 5:21–22, how does a person become guilty of murder in their heart?

**Anger** describes rage; hostility; deep loathing; a seething spirit of animosity toward a person or people.

- c. We have all been guilty of this to some degree, haven't we? The Bible gives us the remedy for harboring a murderous spirit. Through Christ, what will that look like?

Colossians 3:8–9 | Get rid of . . .

Colossians 3:12–14 | Put on . . .

**5** Read Exodus 20:14 | **You shall not commit adultery.** Consider how many lives have been devastated by the breaking of this commandment. Sadly, we have all been affected by this sin in one way or another. Without question, marriage and sexual purity overall is a battleground in our culture. And the stakes are getting higher. What example are we setting?

A RECENT STUDY CLAIMS THAT 40% OF YOUNG PEOPLE (AGE 15–17) AND 74% OF YOUNG ADULTS (AGE 18–22) IN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES ARE SEXUALLY ACTIVE.\* THOSE NUMBERS DROP (SLIGHTLY) AMONG THOSE WHO SAY FAITH AND REGULAR CHURCH ATTENDANCE IS *VERY IMPORTANT* TO THEM.

Adultery is being unfaithful to your spouse. If you are single, being sexually active is fornication.

- a. God’s Word clearly instructs all of us to live in purity. In practical daily life, what does that look like? Use the verses below for help and answer in your own words.

1 Thessalonians 4:3–5

1 Corinthians 6:18–20

Matthew 19:4–6

Ephesians 5:22–33

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If you want your marriage to stand the test of time, then do what God says in His Word. A strong and happy marriage is a result of obedience to God and His Word.

Greg Laurie

- b. Again, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus emphasizes that the sin of adultery includes what happens in the heart. What does He say in Matthew 5:27–30?
- c. If you are married, what kind of safeguards can you put in place to remain faithful to your spouse and enjoy security in your marriage?

In Jewish culture, the right hand signified a person’s best skills and most precious abilities. The right eye represented vision and a person’s main focus. Jesus’ point is that we must be willing to give up whatever is necessary to keep us from sin.

If you are single, what kind of safeguards can you put in place to remain sexually pure?

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\* Sex and the Single Evangelical, August 14, 2019, Institute for Family Studies, ifstudies.org

**A**ction Steps ►► As you think through this part of Moses' story, what is the most important takeaway point for you personally? How will you put what you've learned into action?

**P**ray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. —Ephesians 6:18 NIV

**A**doration – Giving praise and honor to God for who He is and what He does.

**C**onfession – Honestly deal with sin; acknowledge to God the ways (and whys) you fall short.

**T**hanksgiving – Verbalize your gratitude; express your praise and a thankful heart.

**S**upplication – Pray specifically for the needs of others, ourselves, our church, our nation.



Close your discussion time by praying together. Use the A·C·T·S pattern as a group focus and keep it simple. No need to be lengthy or profound, just authentic.

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