



STUDY GUIDE

ANCIENT WAYS FOR THE MODERN FAMILY 8.06.2017

[set up]

What were the 3 most important rules in your family growing up? What do these reveal about your family?

What are the 3 most important rules in your current family? What do these reveal about you?

[digging deeper]

Read Deuteronomy 5:1-21.

To review the hand signals for remembering the 10 Commandments, watch the following video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcSZhSzzX9M> Practice as a group. Have some fun brainstorming some better hand signals!

The first 4 commandments deal with our relationship with God. What do each of these say about the kind of relationship God wants with us? What does this teach you about His nature?

The final 6 commandments deal with our relationship with each other. What do they teach us about the kind of relationships God desires for us?

The Israelites who heard these words in Deuteronomy 5 were not the same Israelites who received the 10 Commandments in Exodus 20 (see Deuteronomy 5:3). Why the reminder? How would this reminder help the people of God establish a new nation?

What were the circumstances - the environment - in which the law was given (Deut. 5:4-5, 22-31)? What does the scene convey about God? About the importance of the law? About God's concern for the well-being of His people?

What do verses 32-33 tell us about God's intent for the law?

Read Galatians 3:10-14, 23-26. Since it is impossible for us to obey the law perfectly, what do these verses say about the function of the law? How would you use this passage with someone who thinks that keeping the 10 Commandments is enough to make them right with God?

If we are free from having to obey the law to be made right with God, then why should we bother to obey? (See Galatians 5:13-16.)

[living it out]

Although most of these laws are given in the negative, they also imply a positive behavior and a divine freedom. (God's awesome "no" is really to protect God's amazing "yes.") For example, "You shall not steal" implies "Respect the personal possessions of others because all things ultimately are given to us all by God... which can free you from worry." As a group on a large Post-it, restate in your own words the positive behaviors and divine freedoms in each commandment.

Which of these 10 do you think is the most difficult to follow?

Which commandment - stated positively with the divine freedom - do you most need to apply to your life today? How can you more and more make this a permanent lifestyle change?

In what ways might your relationship with God be changed if you lived by the positive and freeing intent of the 10 Commandments?

What experience showed you that keeping rules was not the way to obtain God's mercy?

Have each person in the group make a list of 3-5 people they think might be seeking to be right with God through rules, rituals, and regulations. Write the names on a large Post-it.

As you close your time in prayer, pray for 2 things:

1. That each member of the LifeGroup will be a law-keeper - not by slavishly trying harder, but by grace through faith in Jesus;
2. That the individuals listed who are seeking to be right with God through rules, rituals, and regulations would come to faith in Jesus and see that keeping rules is not the way to obtain God's mercy.