



GOD'S GREATEST COMMANDMENTS

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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JULY 30, 2017

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: God addresses a lot of things directly in the Bible—don't steal, don't murder, don't take advantage of the poor, etc.

What about modern issues, like abortion, medical marijuana and birth control?

If the Bible is our guide, then what do we do when there's no direct answer?

2. BIBLE VERSE

Start with loving and serving.

Matthew 22:36-40 [NLT] *“Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?” Jesus replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”*



Learn the overarching values presented in scripture.

Matthew 7:12 [NLT] *12 “Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets.”*

Jesus was not about adding regulations, He was about heart & motive. If you have love in your heart and are living to serve others, you'll find yourself on the right side of uncertain issues more often than not.

3. APPLICATION

Decide based on what you know of God's character.

John 10:27 [NLT] *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”*

The more we get to know God's character, the more our thoughts will align with His. As we take on His world view, we'll naturally do things He wants and avoid things He dislikes.

Q. Name one or two issues that are debated in church circles today. Does the Bible directly address these?



Q. How do you think loving and serving others would affect these issues?

Q. How do you think the overall values taught in the Bible affect these issues?

Q. Based on what you know of God's character, what do you think His opinion on the subject is?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family and thank God for giving you the Bible. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to make the right decisions when you're uncertain about an issue.



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Family Devotional/Overflow Kids Discussion Guide

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1. POWER VERSE: **John 14:26** *"The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."*

God is like no one else. He has unique traits that are His and His alone. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit share those unique traits. Why? Because they are One God, even though they are three Persons.

2. DISCUSSION

The Holy Spirit does many things for us. Here are two:

1. The Holy Spirit will Teach God's Truth
2. The Holy Spirit helps us Remember God's Truth

Since the Holy Spirit is eternal, He was around before the very beginning, before creation. But in the Book of Genesis, we can read about how God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit created all our universe.

Genesis 1:1,2.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

It says that the earth was empty and had no form. But God's Spirit was there, ready for creation to begin.

Remember, the Holy Spirit is God so He was everywhere, helping with the creation of our world.

The Bible has another great story that tells us that the Holy Spirit is God, one Person of the Trinity. Read the story of Jesus' baptism in water from Matthew 3:13-17.



3. APPLICATION

- Q. How many Persons are in the Trinity?
- Q. Who hovered over creation?
- Q. Which Person of the Trinity showed up as a dove? God the Son, (Jesus,) or God the Holy Spirit?
- Q, Which Person of the Trinity said, "This is my Son"? God the Father or God the Holy Spirit?
- Q. How does the Holy Spirit help us?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Spend time praying together as a family. Take turns praying for each other, asking for the Holy Spirit to guide and teach you about God's truth.