

The Law of the Lord

Read each commandment. Discover what each says about living as one of God’s people. Write your answer to each question. Need more room? Use the back of this sheet.

1st Commandment: I am the Lord your God. You shall not have any other gods beside me.

The First Commandment says: “Put first things first.” Nothing must take God’s place—1st place.

What are some “other gods” people your age are tempted to give 1st place?

2nd Commandment: You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.

The Second Commandment says: “Watch your mouth!” Actions may speak louder than words, but often our words betray what’s really in our hearts. Is *God* on your lips but only *me* in your heart?

What do your words reveal about what’s in your heart?

3rd Commandment: Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.

This commandment says: “Remember who loves you and who loves you first.” God, who has first loved us, deserves our thanks and praise.

What do I bring to Sunday worship? Gratitude, or just an attitude?

4th Commandment: Honor your father and your mother.

This commandment says: “You have people—people who care for you, guide you, and worry about you.” Be a people person. Show some respect.

How do you spell R-E-S-P-E-C-T for your parents and other people in your life who care for you?

5th Commandment: You shall not kill.

This commandment says: “Be a life-giver, not a death-dealer.” All life is precious, God-given, and must be supported.

What are some ways we “kill” others without ever lifting a finger against them?

6th, 9th, & 10th Commandments: You shall not commit adultery. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. You shall not covet your neighbor’s house.

The Sixth and Ninth Commandments say: “Sex is sacred, nothing to be ashamed of, toyed with, cheapened, or abused.” The Tenth Commandment says: “Greed is not good.” Greed leads to envy, envy to hate, hate to sin.

How do these commandments fly in the face of the messages of our consumer culture?

7th & 8th Commandments: You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

These commandments say: “Honesty is the *only* policy.” The Seventh Commandment calls us to respect others’ possessions. The Eighth Commandment likewise calls us to value others’ good name—as Mark Twain reminded us, “A lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.”

Do you feel that most of the people you know respect others’ possessions and reputation? Why or why not?

The Messiah—What Did They Expect?

Those Who Were Expecting

_____ The Sadducees

Wealthy, upper-class religious sect, closely connected to the Temple and priesthood.
Believed only in the Torah (first five books of the Bible).
Cooperated with Roman rule because it kept them in power.

_____ The Pharisees

Religious sect that believed in a strict observance of the Law of Moses.
Believed in the Torah and in the oral tradition that interpreted it (the Law and the Prophets).
Believed that Israel was a nation-religion that did not need political rulers, so they hated Roman rule, but tolerated it because Rome allowed Israel freedom of religion.

_____ The Zealots

A movement, not a sect, who rejected both the acceptance of Roman rule and the belief in winning God's favor by strict observance of the Law.
Hated the Romans and their presence; felt that any foreign rule offended God.
Engaged in guerilla warfare and what today we would call political terrorism.

_____ The Poor

The great majority of Israelites; other social classes looked down on them.
Knew little of the Law, and their poverty kept them from learning more.
Hated the Roman presence, but felt powerless before it; saw the Sadducees as too cozy with Rome and the Pharisees as too pious.

The Messiah They Expected

- A. Expected that the messiah would be a military leader who would crush their oppressors and all other nations in the bargain.

- B. Didn't really hope for the coming of a messiah; instead, they believed that *they* were the way God would save Israel—any messiah would be someone who followed the Law perfectly.

- C. Hoped for the coming of a messiah who would rescue them.

- D. Did not believe in a messiah; instead, believed that God blessed Israel as long as the Temple and priesthood continued.

