LESSON 5

The Bible

Learning Objectives

In this lesson you will:

- Learn about the Ten Commandments as the basis for living as good followers of Jesus.
- Realize how the whole Bible, both Old Testament and New Testament, is the Word of God.
- Grow in your desire to listen to, and obey, God's Word, which is proclaimed at every Divine Liturgy.

Opening Prayer

O Lord, help me to listen to your Word and follow you with all my heart. Amen.

Opening Activity

Scan the QR code to access the online resources.

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Introduction

The Bible is the best book we can use to learn how to follow Jesus. After all, it is the **Word of God**. God speaks to us through the Bible in a very special way. When we read the Bible, we see how everything pointed to Jesus because He came to fulfill the law and the prophets (see Mt 5:17).

In the days of Moses, the Israelites tried to understand why certain events happened and what God was saying to them. "If God is leading us, why are we lost in the desert?" they asked. They had followed Moses and his brother Aaron out of Egypt and across the Red Sea. No longer slaves, they were now free people. "What does God want us to do?" they kept asking. "How can we show that we love God and want to follow and obey him?"

Reflection Questions

1. *Is there one story from the Bible that has left an impression with you? How?*
2. *Have you ever questioned why certain things happened in your life? If so, what were they?*

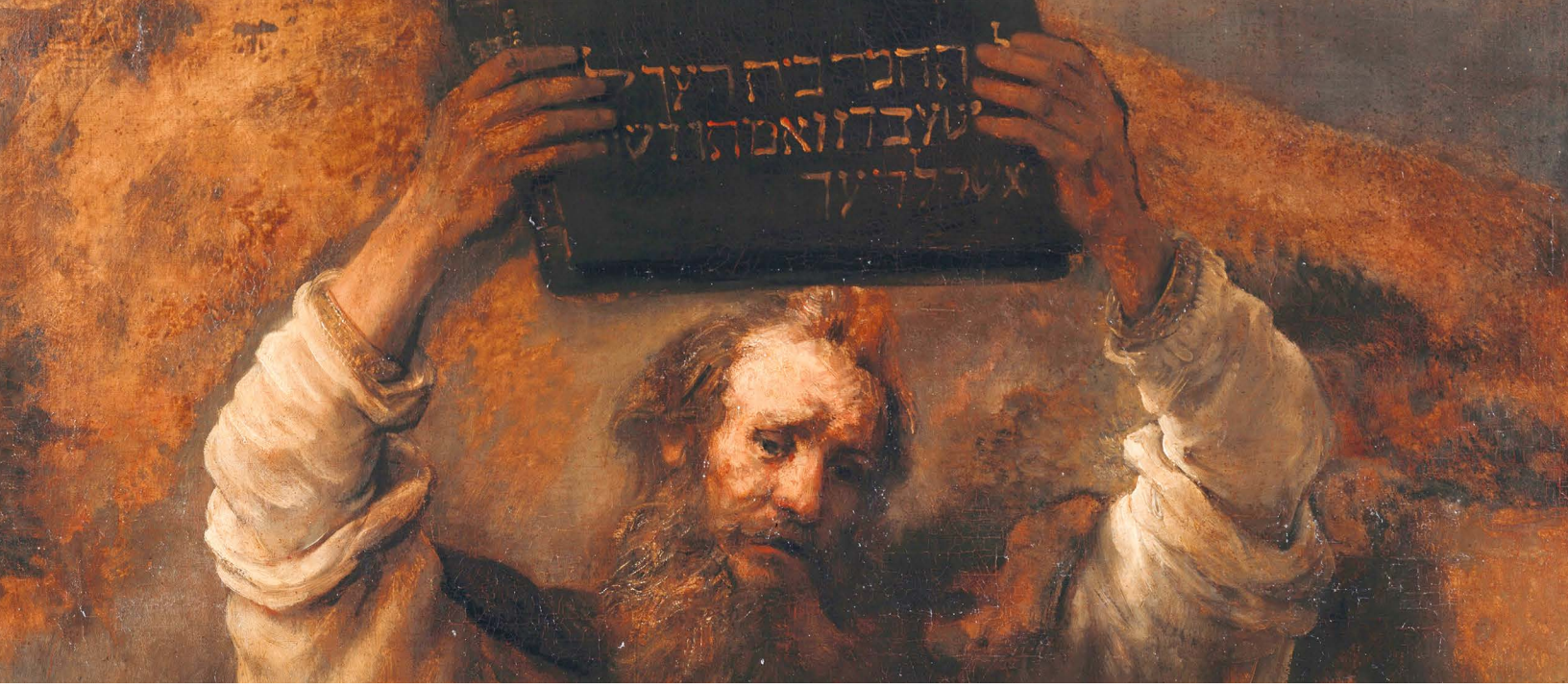
Point 1

Ten Commandments

We learn about the **Ten Commandments** from the Bible, specifically the Book of Exodus. God gave Moses these **commandments**, to tell us how we should love God and other people. These commandments are part of a **covenant**, or sacred promise, between God and the Israelites.

The Ten Commandments are:

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness (lie) against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet (desire) your neighbor's husband or wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's house and anything else that belongs to him.



Point 2

The Old and New Testament

The word "**Bible**" means "books." There are seventy-three books in the Bible. Also known as the Word of God, the Bible is divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The **Old Testament** is the first part of the Bible before the birth of Jesus, while the **New Testament** tells about the life and teachings of Jesus and his disciples.

	Old Testament	New Testament
Number of Books	46	27
Time Covered	The beginning of the world to just before Jesus' birth	Just before Jesus' birth to the early Church

Point 3

Service of the Word



We read and reflect on the Bible at every Divine Liturgy. We call this part of our Divine Liturgy the **Service of the Word**. During this time, we listen to readings from the Old Testament and the New Testament. We also learn how God has acted in our human history, and what is right and wrong. We also discover how God wants us to act. Here, at the Service of the Word, the following occur:

- **Psalm of the Readings *(Mazmooro)***: Everyone sits while a prayer like the psalms from the Bible is sung. The verses are sung alternately by the congregation and the priest.
- **Reading or Readings:** The reader stands at the lectern and says where the reading is from in the Bible. The reader then asks for the priest's blessing. After the priest blesses the reader, the reader reads the Bible passage. At the end of the passage, the reader sings or says, "Praise be to God always!"
- **Alleluia (*Fetgomo*):** While the priests processes with the Book of Gospels, the congregation stands and sings an alleluia and a verse from the Bible.
- **Gospel Reading:** The priest incenses the Bible while two ministers hold lighted candles on each side of the Book of Gospels. The priest says, "Peace be with you." Everyone answers, "And also with you." The Bible passage is then read.
- **Homily:** The congregation sits while the priest or deacon speaks about the readings and explains what God is saying through them.

Activity 1

Get in Order

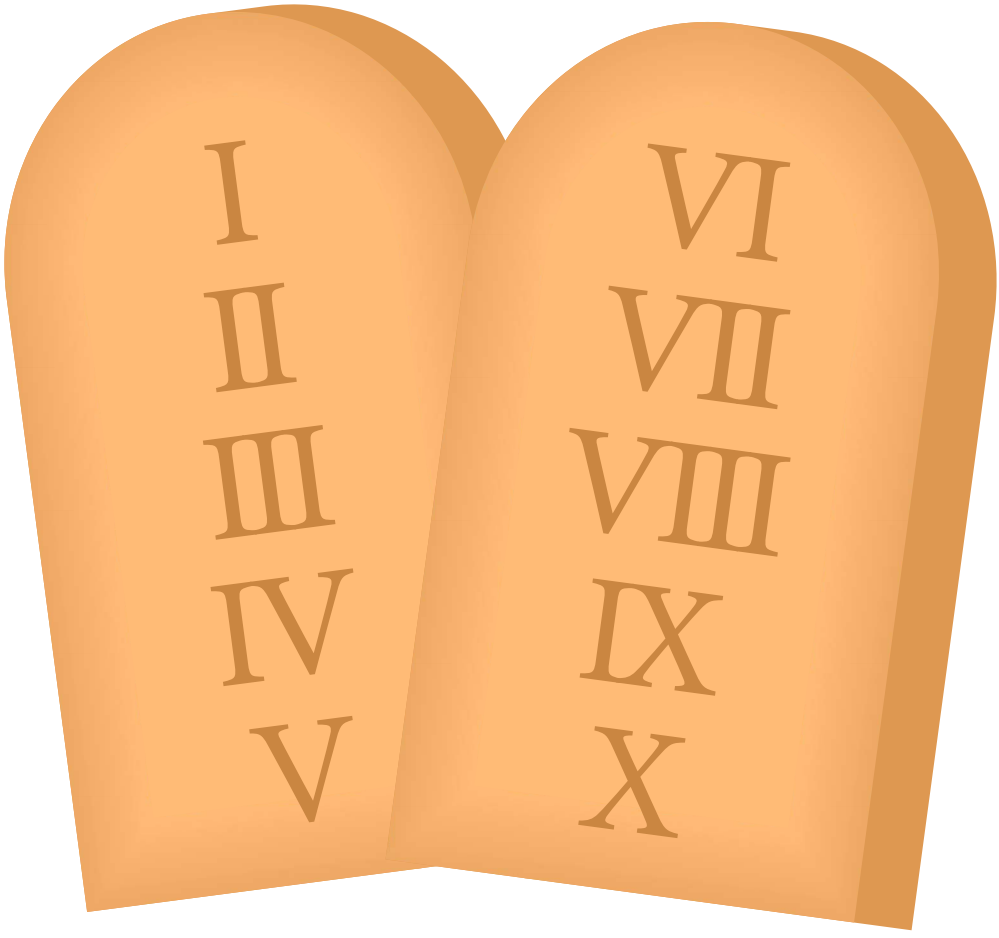
Directions: *Your teacher will hand you a slip of paper with one of the Ten Commandments written on it. Work together to line up in the correct order. Next, read your commandment aloud. Write the number of each commandment below.*

- ◯ You shall not bear false witness (lie) against your neighbor.
- ◯ Honor your father and your mother.
- ◯ You shall not commit adultery.
- ◯ You shall not covet (desire) your neighbor's house and anything else that belongs to him.
- ◯ You shall not steal.
- ◯ I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
- ◯ You shall not covet (desire) your neighbor's husband or wife.
- ◯ Remember to keep holy the sabbath day.
- ◯ You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
- ◯ You shall not kill.

Activity 2

The Ten Commandments

Directions: *Cut out two stone tablets from colored paper and write the Ten Commandments on them.*



Maronite Wisdom

"Holy and immortal Lord, sanctify our minds and purify our consciences, that we may praise you with purity and listen to your Holy Scriptures. To you be glory, for ever."

— *Book of Offering: Service of the Word*

My Role Model



Elias (Elijah) the Prophet

All saints try their best to listen to God's Word and put it into practice. One of our most beloved prophets of the Old Testament is Elias, also known as Elijah. Elias loved the Ten Commandments and was very careful to obey them. He especially obeyed the commandment, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Ex 20:3). Elias warned the king, Ahab, whose wife worshipped a false god, not to worship with her. The king did not listen, so God sent a famine as punishment. Next, Elias stood up to the queen's false prophets. "Let's have a test," Elias said. "We'll put your gods against the God of Israel." Elias won the contest for the God of Israel, so the king and the people went back to the true God. We honor Elias the Prophet on July 20.

Saint Elias, pray for us.

Recall



Use the words below to answer these questions.

1. What did God give Moses on Mount Sinai?

2. What is the name of the first part of the Bible?

3. What part of the Bible tells us about Jesus and the early Church?

4. What do we call the first part of the Divine Liturgy, in which Bible passages are read?

5. What kind of relationship between God and the Israelites is expressed in the commandments?

Words to Know

Covenant | **New Testament** | **Old Testament**

Service of the Word | **Ten Commandments**

Weekly Journal



This Sunday at the Divine Liturgy, listen closely to the homily.

Write: Share one thing you learned from the homily.

Concluding Prayer



Heavenly Father, you were pleased by the prophet Elias and his deeds, for he obeyed your commands. May your Word of Truth fill our souls with your light and enflame our hearts with your love. May we imitate Saint Elias, and like him consecrate our lives to you. Amen.

Climbing the Mountain

Bonus Materials for Students & Teachers



Ex 19:16-25
The People Consecrated

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain, and a blast of a trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled. Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God. They took their stand at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the Lord had descended upon it in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently. As the blast of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses would speak and God would answer him in thunder. When the Lord descended upon Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain, the Lord summoned Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people not to break through to the Lord to look; otherwise many of them will perish. Even the priests who approach the Lord must consecrate themselves or the Lord will break out against them." Moses said to the Lord, "The people are not permitted to come up to Mount Sinai; for you yourself warned us, saying, 'Set limits around the mountain and keep it holy.'" The Lord said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you; but do not let either the priests or the people break through to come up to the Lord; otherwise he will break out against them." So Moses went down to the people and told them.

Reflection

This passage occurs right before God gives Moses the Ten Commandments.

The sound of thunder and the sight of lightning along with the mountain shaking likely scared everyone. And this is no small Egyptian mountain! Mount Sinai's elevation is 7,497 feet.

The mountain was considered holy, so only Moses and Aaron went up. Even the priests were not supposed to come. Just as God invited Moses and Aaron to climb the mountain to receive his commandments, so also God calls you to himself.

Saintly Quote

"To keep the commandments is to be faithful to God, but it is also to be faithful to ourselves, to our true nature, and our deepest aspirations."
— *Pope Saint John Paul II*

Questions

1. What is God saying to you through this Scripture verse?
2. Have you ever had a time when you were afraid to do something that God asked of you?

Reaching the Summit

For Teachers & Parents



"In the formation of conscience, the Word of God is the light for our path; [we must reflect on God's Word] in faith and prayer and put it into practice." — CCC 1785

The Ten Commandments have a special place in the Bible and are very important for our society because they tell us what to do and what not to do. With the Ten Commandments, the Israelites knew what God wanted. They no longer had to only imagine. The same is true for us. These laws were part of a covenant, or sacred agreement, between God and the Israelites. God agreed to make the Israelites his Chosen People. The Israelites, in turn, agreed to obey God's laws.

We learn about the Ten Commandments in a holy book called the Bible. As the Word of God, the Bible tells the true story of God's covenant of love. Even though the Israelites sinned, God was always faithful to the covenant. God promised to

send a Savior—someone who would save people from sin and death. God's promise is called "**salvation history**," and it includes all of time—from the creation of the world to the coming of Jesus and God's saving actions in the Church today. It is God's plan to save us from sin and death.

The best way to understand salvation history is by reading the Bible, which is more like a library than a single book.

In the days of Jesus, many people, including young boys and girls, studied in the synagogue, which is a place of worship for Jewish people. Today, in our churches, we continue to read and reflect on the Bible at every Divine Liturgy.

Discussion Questions

1. How can you foster a great love for the Bible and the Ten Commandments in your child?
2. What are some practical things you can do in your home to help your child love God more?

Words to Know



Q. What is the **Bible**?

A. A collection of seventy three books divided in two parts. The First forty-six books form the Old Testament, while the other twenty-seven are called the New Testament. It is also called "Word of God". Written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and when we read it, inspired by the same Spirit, we grow in holiness, and our lives bring fruits worthy of the name of Christ.

Q. What is the **Service of the Word**?

A. The part of the Liturgy in which we listen to readings from the Holy Bible. This part extends from the beginning of the Liturgy to the end of the creed.

Q. What are the **Ten Commandments**?

A. Ten laws given by God to Moses and the Jewish people. These laws deal with ways we are expected to behave toward God and toward other people. Jesus summarized these laws into the Great Commandment by saying we are to love God with our whole heart, and we are to love others as ourselves.

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