

Commandments That Help Us Love God and Put Him First

Read the following scripture references and statements, looking for ways to love God and put Him first in our lives. After studying each section of the handout, answer these questions:

- How can we obey this commandment in our day?
- How can this commandment help us love God and put Him first in our lives?
- If everybody kept this commandment, how do you think it would affect families, schools, and society?

EXODUS 20:4-6. "THOU SHALT NOT MAKE UNTO THEE ANY GRAVEN IMAGE"

Doctrine and Covenants 1:16

President Dallin H. Oaks of the First Presidency taught:



We offend God when we "serve" other gods—when we have other first priorities.

What other priorities are being "served" ahead of God by persons ... in our day? Consider these possibilities, all common in our world:

- Cultural and family traditions
- Political correctness
- Career aspirations
- Material possessions
- Recreational pursuits
- Power, prominence, and prestige

If none of these examples seems to apply to any one of us, we can probably suggest others that do. The principle is more important than individual examples. The principle is not whether we have other priorities. The question posed by the second commandment is "What is our ultimate priority?" Are we serving priorities or gods ahead of the God we profess to worship? ("No Other Gods," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2013, 72)

EXODUS 20:7. "THOU SHALT NOT TAKE THE NAME OF THE LORD THY GOD IN VAIN"

Doctrine and Covenants 63:60–64

Elder Dale G. Renlund of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shared:



The Hebrew word translated as "take" means to "lift up" or "carry," as one would a banner that identifies oneself with an individual or group.

The word translated as "vain" means "empty" or "deceptive." The commandment to not take the Lord's name in vain can thus mean, "You should not identify yourself as a disciple of Jesus Christ unless you intend to represent Him well." ("Accessing God's Power through Covenants," *Liahona*, May 2023, 36)

EXODUS 20:8-11. "REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY, TO KEEP IT HOLY"

Exodus 31:13, 16–17

President Russell M. Nelson explained:



In my much younger years, I studied the work of others who had compiled lists of things to do and things not to do on the Sabbath. It wasn't until later that I learned from the scriptures that my conduct and my attitude on the Sabbath constituted a sign between me and my Heavenly Father [see Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20:12, 20]. With that understanding, I no longer needed lists of dos and don'ts. When I had to make a decision whether or not an activity was appropriate for the Sabbath, I simply asked myself, "What sign do I want to give to God?" That question made my choices about the Sabbath day crystal clear. ...

... What sign will you give to the Lord to show your love for Him? ("The Sabbath Is a Delight," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2015, 130)