

# **New City Catechism**

## **Discussion Questions**

### **Episode 8: What is the law of God stated in the 10 commandments?**

Short Answer (matches song): You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not covet.

Long Answer (doesn't match song): You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below—you shall not bow down to them or worship them. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not covet.

Verse to learn: **Exodus 20:3**

***You shall have no other gods before me..***

#### **Discussion Questions:**

##### **1. Why are rules important when you play a sport?**

A: Answers can vary - allow for involvement. Without rules, the game evolves into chaos. The rules actually help protect the players and provide guidance for how the game is to be played.

##### **2. What is the focus of the first 4 commandments?**

A: Love for God. Having nothing else in your life that compares with him. Not creating anything or looking to anything made by mankind and raising it up above God. Setting aside your time for God (Sabbath). A good follow up might be "What about these rules, helps us to love God?"

##### **3. What is the focus of the last 6 commandments?**

A: Loving your neighbor. Notice it starts at home (father and mother). We learn how to love others by first loving our parents.

##### **4. Can you think of positive/opposite commands for each commandment?**

A: Examples: Honor father and mother = Don't bring dishonor to your father and mother  
Don't murder = Every life is made in the image of God and has eternal value  
Don't commit adultery = love your spouse and pour into your marriage  
Don't steal = Respect other people's property  
Don't give false testimony = Be truthful (let your yes be yes and your no be no - Matthew 5:37).  
Don't covet = Be thankful for what you have. Celebrate what others have.

**5. Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible. Read/skim through it and talk about the themes you see (particularly with the law)?**

A: Allow discussion. Encourage people to skip around and perhaps read a section and point out what is said about the law. Notice how much David LOVES the law. Why do you think he loves it so much? A: While some of God's laws seem archaic to us, as you study the laws you will find that God's laws promote order, value of every life, justice for those that abuse and cause harm, and the laws keep us from turning to man-made ways that lead to destruction.

Here is a short article that helps explain some of why loving God's law reflects our love for God:

<https://www.challies.com/articles/oh-how-i-love-the-law/>

Also, you may get into discussion about the law in light of being under the "law of grace" in Jesus. Here is a great article outlining a few thoughts on the law as we apply it under the gospel. Particularly under "considerations" numbers 1-8 and the final points at the bottom of the page.

<https://www.wilrens.org/2017/12/cals44/>