

# 07 THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

KEY TEXT: **EXODUS 20:1-17**

## CENTRAL truth

The Ten Commandments are the basic terms of the sacred contract that God made with His people. He had graciously freed the Israelites from slavery, but they still needed instructions to teach them how to live as His set-apart people. As we read about these instructions, we will be reminded that **God's commands reveal His character.**

## key question

**What can verse 2 teach us about the grace of God?**

Before God gave His people the commandments, He reminded them of who He was and what He had graciously done for them. Yahweh was the God who had defeated Pharaoh and the false Egyptian gods, and He was the God who had freed His people from slavery. Through His commandments, He would teach them that they were not simply freed to do as they pleased or serve whichever gods they preferred. Loyal obedience to God was the proper response to His gracious act on their behalf.

## keep in mind

- The commandment to honor one's father and mother may be a sensitive subject for students whose familial circumstances are complicated or tense. Using this week's **Culture Note** to guide you, encourage students to celebrate and acknowledge anyone in their lives who has acted like a mother or father to them.
- It can be easy for students to get lost in the dos and don'ts as they study the Ten Commandments. Help them understand that the Lord is not against our joy. Rather, He is the One in whom "abundant joy" (see Ps. 16:11) is found, and His commands reveal his good character.

## application

**In what ways does today's Scripture challenge us to love the Lord and love our neighbor?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Students should leave today knowing that God's commands reveal His character. As His people, we're called to love Him and love our neighbors as ourselves.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Jesus taught that God's greatest commandments were for us to love the Lord and love our neighbor as ourselves (see Matt. 22:37-40). Remind students that through Jesus's achievement, we've been given the Holy Spirit to help us live out these commands.

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