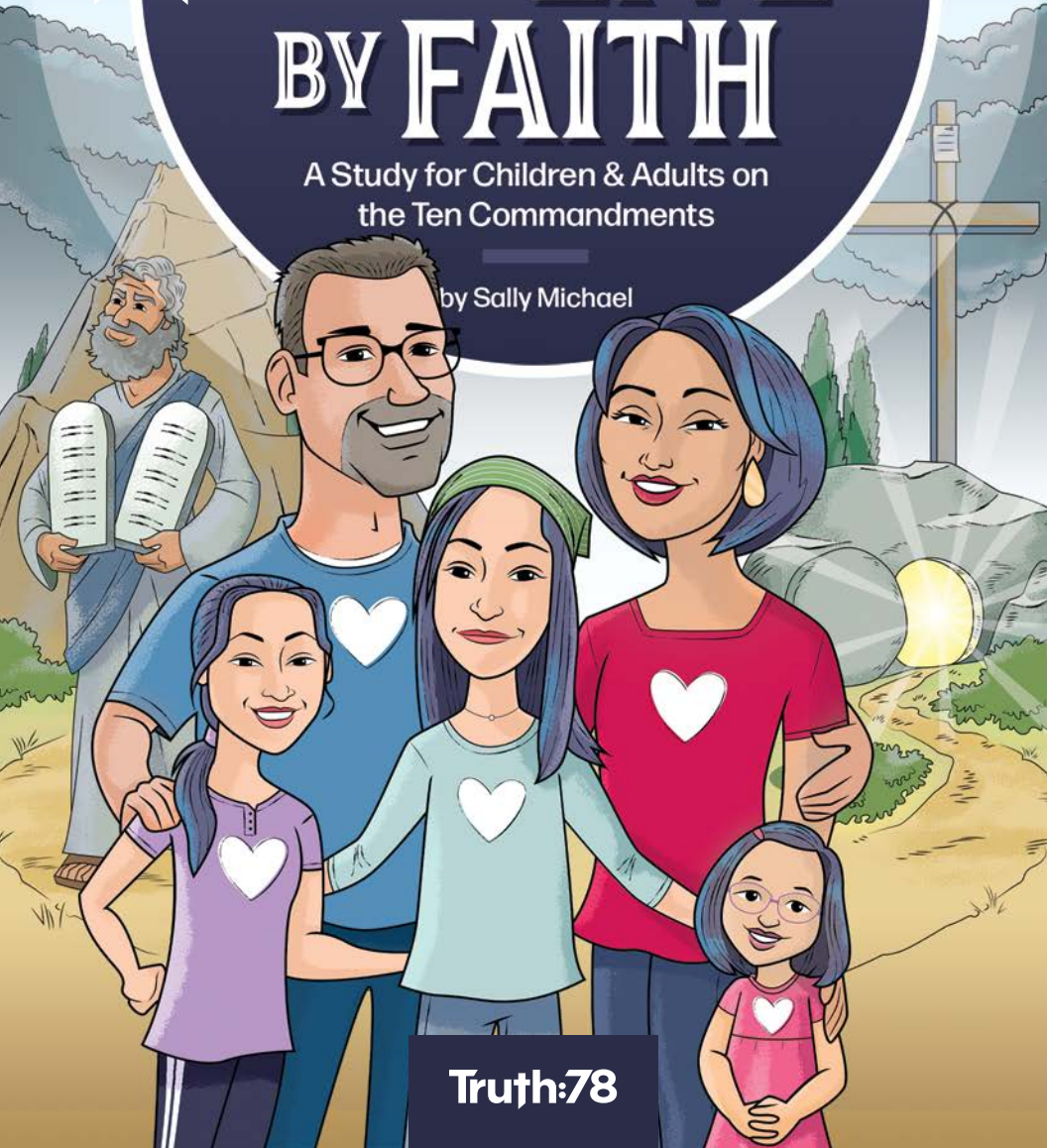


Family Devotional Guide

THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

A Study for Children & Adults on
the Ten Commandments

by Sally Michael



Truth:78

Sample Lesson

The Righteous Shall Live By Faith
A Study for Children and Adults on the Ten Commandments

by Sally Michael

Our vision at Truth78 is that the next generations know, honor, and treasure God, setting their hope in Christ alone, so that they will live as faithful disciples for the glory of God.

Our mission is to inspire and equip the church and the home for the comprehensive discipleship of the next generation.

We equip churches and parents by producing curriculum for Sunday School, Midweek Bible, Intergenerational, Youth, and Backyard Bible Club settings; vision-casting and training resources (many available free on our website) for both the church and the home; materials and training to help parents in their role in discipling children; and the Fighter Verses.™ Bible memory program to encourage the lifelong practice and love of Bible memory.

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PREFACE

A study of the Ten Commandments can be truly liberating because the more a person understands the implications of the moral code set forth in the Ten Commandments, the more he realizes that he is utterly unable to fulfill the law's demands. When a person recognizes this plight, he can cease from senseless striving to be justified by his own righteousness and rest in the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. The law as a mirror reflecting our sinful hearts points to our need for a Savior.

Kay Arthur in *How to Study Your Bible* writes:

In days gone by, children learned the commandments before they learned John 3:16, because only then did John 3:16 have real meaning for them. Likewise, John Eliot's first translation work among the Indians was not of John 3:16 but of the Ten Commandments, and he preached his first sermon on them. Did John Eliot think the Indians would be saved by the Ten Commandments? Of course not, but the Commandments would show them why they needed to be saved—they were lawbreakers, and they needed a law keeper to be their substitute.

Similarly, John Paton, the great Presbyterian missionary to the New Hebrides, first taught the commandments. Why? Because people will never be properly interested in a relationship with the Redeemer until they see the terrible breach in the relationship to the Creator.¹

So at every point in a study of the Ten Commandments, where the depravity of man becomes alarmingly apparent, it is a cause for rejoicing that God has made a way for man to be reckoned righteous through the blood of Jesus Christ. Studying the Ten Commandments should repeatedly cause the Christian to fall on his knees and thank

¹ Ernest Reisinger. *Whatever Happened to the Ten Commandments*. (Edinburgh, Scotland: Banner of Truth Trust, 1999), 5.

Sample Lesson

God for making a way of salvation. Oh, the wonderful grace of God to undeserving sinners!

To the non-Christian, studying the Ten Commandments should be a constant indicator that he will NEVER be saved by works of his own righteousness. As one studies God's moral law and its myriad of implications, the non-Christian should be continually and painfully aware that he consistently falls short of God's standard of perfect righteousness. Where else can the non-Christian turn except to Jesus, God's provision for sinful man? What wonderful news for sinful men!

The heart of a person who embraces Jesus Christ as Savior and the fulfillment of God's demand of perfect righteousness overflows with the desire to live in such a manner that his life pleases his Savior. Thus, the law becomes a moral guide to the Christian, rather than the instrument of condemnation. As the Christian observes the Lord's commands, he will find that God's ways are right and good and truly satisfying.

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. (Psalm 119:34)

Sample Lesson

L E S S O N 1

THE LORD YOUR GOD

Main Ideas

- God is the greatest authority and has the right to command and expect obedience.
- God declares Himself as the God of His people and shows His goodness.
- God declares Himself as the Liberator freeing His people from bondage.

Key Verse

Exodus 20:2—“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

Scripture

- Exodus 19:4-6, 8a
- Psalm 89:11
- Exodus 20:2

Lesson Summary

After freeing the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and miraculously opening the Red Sea so they could escape Pharaoh’s soldiers, God told Moses to give the Hebrews the Ten Commandments. [Can you tell me any of these Commandments?]

The Ten Commandments starts with a prologue. [?]⁴ The prologue is found in Exodus 20:2, “...I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

⁴ If your child has heard the lesson at church, many of the statements in the lesson summary can be turned into questions. These are marked with a question mark before the statement to alert you to ask a review question rather than read the statement. This will encourage your child to think, participate, and remember. For example, ask someone to identify and read the prologue of the Ten Commandments.

Sample Lesson

God tells us three things about Himself in the prologue. [What are these three things?] First, He is the LORD. [?] The Hebrew name for LORD is Yahweh. The name Yahweh is full of meaning. It tells us a lot about God. [?] It tells us that God is in charge—it shows us His authority. It tells us that God is sovereign [What does sovereign mean?—He has the right, wisdom, and power to do all that He pleases.⁵ The name Yahweh means that God is self-sufficient. [What does self-sufficient mean?—God doesn't need anything or anyone.

Yahweh means that God is eternal. [What does eternal mean?] He has no beginning and no ending. God has always been, and He always will be. (He lives forever.) Yahweh means that God is almighty. [What does almighty mean?] He can do anything. And the name Yahweh means that God is unchanging. [What does unchanging mean?] He is always the same; He never changes.

So God tells us in the prologue that He is Yahweh— sovereign, self-sufficient, eternal, almighty, and unchanging. Yahweh God is a great and glorious God!

Let's look at the prologue and see what else it tells us about God. [?] Moses told the Hebrews that God is “your God.” [?] “Your God” means that God is personal and loving. He invites people to be in relationship with Him and to be part of His family. It is a wonderful thing to have God as Your God and to be a part of His family.

[?] The last thing the prologue tells us about God is that He is the Liberator. [What does liberator mean?] A liberator is someone who frees someone or something. Yahweh, the One who is almighty, in-charge, all-powerful and who loves His people, freed the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt.

But God is the Liberator in another way, too. [?] God frees His people from the burden of sin. The Hebrews made a great escape from Egypt, and from the soldiers of Pharaoh when God opened the Red Sea. And sinners can make a great escape from the punishment for sin, too. God, the Liberator, sent His Son to die for the sins of His people—to free them from the bondage of sin.

⁵ This definition of sovereign is from the Truth78 curriculum, *The ABCs of God* by Jill Nelson.

Sample Lesson

God is the Lord. He is a personal God. And He is the Liberator. This is great news for sinners!

Point to Ponder

The greatest slavery the Hebrews experienced was not the physical bondage in Egypt, but the spiritual bondage to sin. The wilderness wandering exposed many of their sinful heart attitudes. What were some of these attitudes that enslaved them? (This makes an enlightening study.)

DAY 1**Read: Lesson Summary; Exodus 20:2****Questions**

- I am your parent. That means you and I have a different relationship than you do with another adult who is not your parent. How is our relationship different? (How do I treat you differently than I treat your friend? What do I do for you that I don't do for other children? Why do I do those things? What responsibility do I have toward you that I don't have toward other children? How do you treat me differently than you treat your friend's parents?)
- God has a different relationship with His children than with other people. What is different about the relationship between God and His people than the relationship between God and those who are not His?

Pray

Sample Lesson

DAY 2

Read: Exodus 5:1-6:13

Question

- What was it like for the Hebrews to be slaves in Egypt?
- What kinds of things enslave people today?
- How can sin be like slavery or bondage?

Pray

DAY 3

Read about the plagues in Exodus 7, 8, and 9.

(If your children are young, you may need to summarize parts or read a little at a time.)

Questions

- What can you learn about God from these chapters?
- How did God show that He is Yahweh— sovereign, self-sufficient, eternal, almighty, and unchanging? Write your answers on the chart at the end of this lesson.)

Pray

DAY 4

Read about the plagues in Exodus 10:1-12:32.

Questions

- What can you tell about Pharaoh from what you have read?
- We read yesterday and today that Pharaoh “hardened his heart,” that Pharaoh’s heart was “hardened,” or that God hardened Pharaoh’s heart. What does it mean to harden your heart? How does a person harden his heart?
- How did God show the Hebrews that He was the LORD? (Write your answers on the chart at the end of this lesson.)

Pray

Sample Lesson

DAY 5

Read: Exodus 13:17-14:31

Questions

- What do these chapters tell you about God? How did He show Himself to the Hebrews as “the LORD your God?” (Write your answers on the chart at the end of this lesson.)
- How did God show Himself as the Liberator of the Hebrews? (Write your answers on the chart at the end of this lesson.)

Sing

Sing a song of praise to God or try singing parts of Exodus 15, making up your own tune.

Pray

Student Banner

For this lesson, tape or glue onto the Student Banner the Prologue, Crown, House, and Red Sea pieces where indicated, and lightly tape the Cross over the Red Sea (so that it can later be removed).



Family Night Devotional and Activity

Read: Hosea 11:1-4

This passage shows God’s fatherly love for Israel. Read through this passage verse-by-verse and talk about each verse. Then answer the questions.

Questions

- What was Israel like?
- According to this passage, what is God like? How did God treat Israel? What does this show about God’s heart for His people?

Sample Lesson

Activity

Enjoy looking through old family albums. Pay special attention to pictures of when your children were learning to walk and draw out the similarities between your parental care to your children and God's parental care over Israel. Be sure to note the differences between your parental care and God's parental care. As you look through old family pictures, talk about:

- a parent's love for his/her children
- what it means to be part of a family (the benefits of being part of a family)
- what a good parent is like
- what kind of parent God is to His children
- God's love for His children and what it is like to be a part of God's family

Take some pictures of your family or make a family video to remember this night.

If you have a video of your children when they were young, you may want to show this at the end of the evening, as you enjoy a favorite family snack.

Note: Photo albums offer more opportunity for discussion than videos do. If you decide to watch family videos, use them in addition to the albums.

End with a time of prayer.

Additional Ideas

- Work on memorizing the key verse. You may want to make a verse card.
- Remove the Student Banner and its pieces from the back of the book. Cut out the following pieces: Prologue (I Am the LORD Your God); Crown; House; Red Sea; and Cross. Glue the pieces to the banner; the Cross goes on top of the Red Sea (taped lightly so that you can remove it later). Display the banner on a refrigerator or bulletin board in your home.

Sample Lesson

Parent Resources

- A good method of Bible memory can be found at FighterVerses.com.
- For a family audio resource on the Ten Commandments, see *If You Love Me* by Judy Rogers:

The collection includes a song for each commandment, a song about living before the face of God (Coram Deo) and the “solos” of the Reformation, and a song about the greatest commandment. The music features a variety of musical styles, an assortment of instruments, and both solo and choral voices. You can listen to each track at: judyrogers.bandcamp.com/album/if-you-love-me-songs-for-the-10-commandments

- For a rich adult study of the Ten Commandments:
 - Puritan preacher and writer Thomas Watson’s *The Ten Commandments* (Edinburg, Scotland: The Banner of Truth Trust, 1965).
 - R. Albert Mohler, Jr.’s *Words from the Fire: Hearing the Voice of God in the 10 Commandments* (Chicago, Ill.: Moody Publishers, 2009).
 - Michael Horton’s *The Law of Perfect Freedom: Relating to God and Others Through the Ten Commandments* (Chicago, Ill.: Moody Press, 2004).
 - Philip Graham Ryken’s *Written in Stone: The Ten Commandments and Today’s Moral Crisis* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2010).

Sample Lesson

Evidence that God is “The LORD” (YAHWEH):

Evidence that God is a Personal, Loving God to His People (“Your GOD”):

Evidence that God is the Liberator:

God showed Himself to be “the LORD your God” to the Hebrews before He told them this. He didn’t ask for blind faith—He **showed** them that He is who He says He is before He asked them to trust and obey Him. God has given us even more evidence that He is “the LORD,” the Liberator, and a personal God to His people. Do you trust Him?