

"TEN:10"//The Cause Church Life Groups: Spring//Summer 2015
BEST LIFE EVER (The 10 Commandments)
Session 1: The First Commandment (Exodus 20:1-3)

DVD Teaching (Approx. 10 min.): Show Session 1 of Ps. Bob's Topic Intro.

10 Discussion Questions (Suggested Time: 30-60 min.)

1. Is there anything that Pastor Bob said that stood out to you or challenged you?
2. When you think about the 10 Commandments, what is the first thing that comes to mind?

Read John 10:10.

3. Pastor Bob often says, "God's ways are always better." Have you seen this to be true in your own life? If so, how?

Read Exodus 20:1-3.

4. Why do you think this is the first of the 10 Commandments?
5. What does it mean to have another "god" before God?
6. What or who are the gods of our generation?

Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20.

7. What stands out to you in this passage?
8. What are the benefits of obeying God?

Read Matthew 6:33.

9. Are there any gods in your life before the Lord?
10. Practically speaking, how can you keep God first in your life on a daily basis?

Prayer (Suggested Time: 10-15 min.)

- Thank the Lord for who He is and declare that He alone is God of your lives.
- Pray for any personal needs.

Important Church Announcements (Suggested Time: 2-3 min.)

Encourage your Life Group members to participate in the upcoming opportunities and events at The Cause.

BEST LIFE EVER (The 10 Commandments)
Session 2: The Second Commandment (Exodus 20:4-6)

DVD Teaching (Approx. 10 min.): Show Session 2 of Ps. Bob's Topic Intro.

10 Discussion Questions (Suggested Time: 30-60 min.)

1. Is there anything that Pastor Bob said that stood out to you or challenged you?

Read Exodus 20:4-6.

2. Are there any "graven images" or "idols" that our culture worships?
3. Have you ever worshiped an idol at any time in your life?
4. Why is God a "jealous God" and what do you think that means? How does that affect how you relate to the Lord?
5. This passage indicates that the spiritual impact of decisions made or actions taken *does* transmit to successive generations. Some refer to this as "generational blessings" and "generational curses." Have you seen or experienced this? If you have children or grandchildren, how does this challenge you?

Read Matthew 19:16-22.

6. The young man kept many of the 10 Commandments, but which one(s) was he breaking? What was the idol in his life?
7. Why do you think Jesus asked him what He did in **verse 21**? Do you think Jesus' words are a command for every believer? Why or why not?
8. Are you ever tempted to make money (wealth, finances) an idol in your life? How do overcome this temptation?

Read 1 John 5:18-21.

9. How should our relationship with Christ help keep us from idols?
10. Are there other practical things we can do to keep ourselves from idols?

Prayer (Suggested Time: 10-15 min.)

- Declare that Jesus alone is Lord of your lives, and ask that He would bless your future generations (that they would know Him and live for Him).
- Pray for any personal needs.

Important Church Announcements (Suggested Time: 2-3 min.)

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BEST LIFE EVER (The 10 Commandments)
Session 3: The Third Commandment (Exodus 20:7)

DVD Teaching (Approx. 10 min.): Show Session 3 of Ps. Bob's Topic Intro.

10 Discussion Questions (Suggested Time: 30-60 min.)

1. Is there anything that Pastor Bob said that stood out to you or challenged you?

Read Exodus 20:7.

2. Why do you think God made this one of the 10 Commandments?
3. How do you react when people misuse God's name? Why do you react that way? Should you react differently?

Read Matthew 6:9.

4. What does it mean to you to honor, or "hallow," the name of the Lord?

Read Exodus 3:13-15; 34:6-7.

5. Based on these two passages where the Lord interacts with Moses, what does God's name reveal about His character (or nature)?
 - *Note: In Exodus 3:14, God reveals Himself as "I AM WHO I AM," or "I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE." based on the Hebrew verb "to be." The Hebrew word here is the source of the English "Yahweh," "Jehovah," or "LORD." Scholars call this the "divine name" of God.*
6. What do you learn about the character of God through His "Jehovah" names in the following passages?: **Genesis 22:14; Exodus 15:26; 17:15; 31:13; Judges 6:24; Psalm 23:1; Jeremiah 23:6; Ezekiel 48:35.**
 - Discuss how the Lord has been faithful to one or more of His "Jehovah" names in your life (i.e. *Jehovah Rapha*, your Healer).
 - How does this encourage you?

Read Philippians 2:5-11.

7. What does it mean to pray "in the name of Jesus"?
8. Why is the name of Jesus so powerful? (see also **Mark 16:17-18; Acts 3:6, 16; 4:12**)
9. Have you ever experienced the power of Jesus' name in your own life? How?

Read Acts 19:13-17.

10. What application(s) regarding the Lord's name can we make from this story?

Prayer (Suggested Time: 10-15 min.)

- Honor, or "hallow," God's name in your prayer time.
- Pray for any personal needs.

Important Church Announcements (Suggested Time: 2-3 min.)

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BEST LIFE EVER (The 10 Commandments)
Session 4: The Fourth Commandment (Exodus 20:8-11)

DVD Teaching (Approx. 10 min.): Show Session 4 of Ps. Bob’s Topic Intro.

10 Discussion Questions (Suggested Time: 30-60 min.)

1. Is there anything that Pastor Bob said that stood out to you or challenged you?

Read Genesis 2:1-3.

2. Why do you think that God rested on the seventh day? What does this mean for us?

Read Exodus 20:8-11.

3. Do you think that businesses should be closed on Sunday out of respect for God? Should people play sports on Sunday?

4. Do you think that attending church every week is part of obeying this commandment? Why or why not?

5. Is it difficult for you to keep the Sabbath every week? Why or why not?

- *Note: The Hebrew word “shabat” (“Sabbath”) means rest.*

6. What are the consequences (spiritual, physical, emotional, financial) of breaking this commandment?

7. Have you found that when you keep the Sabbath that you are more effective at your job and in other areas of your life? Explain.

8. Do you use the Sabbath to rest, remember God and your other values, and to refocus on what’s important in life (i.e. relationship with God, family, etc.)?

Read Mark 2:23-28.

9. What do you learn about the Sabbath from Jesus’ words?

10. Is Jesus “Lord of the Sabbath” in your life? In other words, if you do not regularly keep the Sabbath, what do you need to change in your life so you can start doing this?

Prayer (Suggested Time: 10-15 min.)

- Ask the Lord to show each person if there is anything they need to do or change in order to keep the Sabbath.
- Pray for any personal needs.

Important Church Announcements (Suggested Time: 2-3 min.)

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BEST LIFE EVER (The 10 Commandments)
Session 5: The Fifth Commandment (Exodus 20:12)

DVD Teaching (Approx. 10 min.): Show Session 5 of Ps. Bob’s Topic Intro.

10 Discussion Questions (Suggested Time: 30-60 min.)

1. Is there anything that Pastor Bob said that stood out to you or challenged you?

Read **Exodus 20:12** and **Ephesians 6:1-4**.

2. What do you notice in these passages?

- NOTE: The word “honor” means *“to prize highly, to show respect, to glorify and exalt.”*

3. Think back to when you were growing up: Did you do a good job of honoring your parents? Why or why not?

4. If your parents are still alive, how do you practically honor them now as an adult?

5. Do you think that just as parents took care of your needs when you were young that it is equally important to take care of their needs when they are elderly? Is this part of honoring them?

6. The Bible never commands children to love their parents, but it does command children to honor their parents. Why do you think that is?

- Can you love your parents without honoring them? Or can you honor them without loving them?

7. How do you honor your parents if you feel like they don’t deserve to be honored?

- What role, if any, does forgiveness play in honoring your parents? (see **Matthew 6:14-15**)

8. Dennis Prager says, *“If there is no contact [communication] with your parents, then there is no honor.”* Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Explain.

Read **Proverbs 22:6**.

9. How can you teach and model to your child/children this commandment?

- If you don’t honor your parents, should you expect your child/children to honor you?

10. If you’re a parent and your child/children don’t honor you, what do you do? (see **Matthew 5:43-48; Luke 15:11-24; Romans 12:9-21**)

Prayer (Suggested Time: 10-15 min.)

- Pray for any issues people have related to their parents or their own children.
- Pray for any personal needs.

Important Church Announcements (Suggested Time: 2-3 min.)

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BEST LIFE EVER (The 10 Commandments)

Session 6: The Sixth Commandment (Exodus 20:13)

DVD Teaching (Approx. 10 min.): Show Session 6 of Ps. Bob's Topic Intro.

10 Discussion Questions (Suggested Time: 30-60 min.)

1. Is there anything that Pastor Bob said that stood out to you or challenged you?

Read [Genesis 4:1-12](#) and [Exodus 20:13](#).

2. What stands out to you in the story of Cain and Abel? (for further study, see also [Hebrews 11:4](#); [1 John 3:11-12](#); [Jude 11](#))
 - NOTE: In [Exodus 20:13](#), the King James Bible translated the word "murder" as "kill." However, the correct translation of the Hebrew word is "murder," which is the illegal or immoral taking of a human life.
3. What do you learn about how God views murder?
4. King David was a "man after God's own heart" ([Acts 13:22](#)), yet he was also a murderer (see [2 Samuel 11-12](#) and [Psalm 51](#)). What does this teach you about God's love, mercy and forgiveness? (Note David's response to his sin).

Read [Matthew 5:21-24](#) (see also [1 John 3:15-16](#)).

5. How does Jesus interpret the Sixth Commandment and what application does it have for you today? (NOTE: Calling someone "raca" or "fool" was insinuating that the person should be doomed to hell).

Read [Ephesians 4:26-27, 31-32](#); [Colossians 3:8-10](#); [James 1:19-22](#).

6. Why is anger so destructive, and how do you learn to control it?

Read [Proverbs 18:21](#) and [James 3:1-12](#).

7. What do you learn about the power of our words (the tongue)?
8. How do we "murder" people with our words? (see [Proverbs 16:28](#); [Romans 1:28-30](#); [2 Corinthians 12:20-21](#); [Titus 3:2](#))
9. What are some practical ways that you can "speak life" (as Pastor Sherry says) over other people?
10. Pastor Bob says we also "murder" people by: not encouraging their dreams and ambitions; squashing their joy and enthusiasm; not forgiving them; doing things for them that they can and should do for themselves; focusing on their mistakes and shortcomings; and not really listening to them. Are you guilty of doing any of these things to others? If so, what do you need to do differently?

Prayer (Suggested Time: 10-15 min.)

- Ask the Lord to show people if they have "murdered" others in some way.
- Pray for any personal needs.

Important Church Announcements (Suggested Time: 2-3 min.)

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BEST LIFE EVER (The 10 Commandments)
Session 7: The Seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14)

DVD Teaching (Approx. 10 min.): Show Session 7 of Ps. Bob's Topic Intro.

10 Discussion Questions (Suggested Time: 30-60 min.)

1. Is there anything that Pastor Bob said that stood out to you or challenged you?

Read **Exodus 20:14**.

- NOTE from the *New Spirit Filled Life Bible*: "Adultery covers any form of unfaithfulness. While aimed at maintaining the sexual sanctity and holiness of marriage, it also deals with the concept of a proper relationship with God and others. This purity also includes our thoughts (Matt. 5:27-28)."
2. Have you ever experienced the negative affects of someone else's adulterous relationship (i.e. a parent, family member, close friend, etc.)? How did it impact you and others close to him/her?

Read **Matthew 5:27-32**.

3. What is Jesus' interpretation of the Seventh Commandment? How does it convict or challenge you?
4. How should we deal with this sin specifically and all sin in general?

Read **Proverbs 7** (see also **Proverbs 5**; **James 1:14-16**).

5. What stands out to you in this chapter?
6. What mistakes did the young man make and what were the consequences of his adultery?
7. What application is there for us today? (What can we learn from this example?)
8. If you're married, what are some practical and spiritual ways to safeguard your marriage against adultery? (If you're single, what are some practical and spiritual ways to safeguard yourself against adultery?) (see also **Psalms 119:11**; **Proverbs 4:23**; **Ephesians 5:21-33**).
- Do you think having accountability with a mature Christian of the same gender is part of this? Why or why not?

Read **Psalms 51**.

9. The context of this psalm is that it was written by King David after the Lord convicted him of his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba (see **2 Samuel 11-12**). What do you learn about God from this passage?
10. If you've committed adultery, what is the right way to handle it before the Lord? How does this passage give you and others hope?

Prayer (Suggested Time: 10-15 min.)

- Ask the Lord to strengthen marriages and help single people remain sexually pure.
- Pray for any personal needs.

Important Church Announcements (Suggested Time: 2-3 min.)

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BEST LIFE EVER (The 10 Commandments)
Session 8: The Eighth Commandment (Exodus 20:15)

DVD Teaching (Approx. 10 min.): Show Session 8 of Ps. Bob's Topic Intro.

10 Discussion Questions (Suggested Time: 30-60 min.)

1. Is there anything that Pastor Bob said that stood out to you or challenged you?

Read **Exodus 20:15** and **John 10:10**.

2. Have you ever had something stolen from you? Share the story. How did it affect you?
- Have you ever stolen something? Share the story. How did you feel afterwards?
3. What are common ways that people steal from...others? their workplace (employees or employers)? Government/taxes? Family/relatives? God?
4. Pastor Bob says that at the heart of stealing is a lack of trust in God as our Provider. Agree or disagree? (see **Proverbs 3:5-10**)
5. Do you think that stealing can ever be justified, or is acceptable in God's eyes? (For example: A homeless person who steals to provide for his/her family.) Why or why not?
- If you believe it's okay, can you support this view biblically?

Read **Joshua 7** (especially verses 1, 10-26).

6. What stands out to you in this story?
7. What were the consequences of Achan's theft? How did it not only affect him, but also his family and the entire nation of Israel?
8. What are the applications this story has for us today?

Read **Romans 13:9-10** and **Ephesians 4:28**.

9. What practical reasons do these verses give for not stealing?

Read **Luke 19:1-10**.

10. The story implies that Zacchaeus stole from the people by taking more tax money than he was supposed to. How did he repent of his sin when he met Jesus?
- For believers, is restitution important (or even commanded) if you have stolen from someone? (see **Leviticus 6:1-5**; **Numbers 5:5-7**)

Prayer (Suggested Time: 10-15 min.)

- Ask the Lord to reveal to you if there is an area of your life where you have been stealing from others, and to show you what to do to make things right.
- Pray for any personal needs.

Important Church Announcements (Suggested Time: 2-3 min.)

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BEST LIFE EVER (The 10 Commandments)

Session 9: The Ninth Commandment (Exodus 20:16)

DVD Teaching (Approx. 10 min.): Show Session 9 of Ps. Bob's Topic Intro.

10 Discussion Questions (Suggested Time: 30-60 min.)

1. Is there anything that Pastor Bob said that stood out to you or challenged you?

Read **Exodus 20:16**.

2. What are some reasons that people lie?

3. Share about a time where you have lied, or someone has lied to you. What were the consequences/repercussions of this?

4. Are there ever circumstances or situations where lying is okay in God's eyes? (For example: Germans who lied to the Nazis to protect the lives of Jews.) Why or why not?

- If you believe it's okay, can you support this view biblically? (see the story of Rahab in **Joshua 2 and Hebrews 11:31**).

Read **John 1:14, 17; 8:31-32, 39-47; 14:6, 16-17; 15:26**.

5. What do you learn about the nature of God? What do you learn about the nature of the enemy?

6. How does the truth set us free (both the truth of the gospel of the kingdom of God, and also truth in general)?

Read **Acts 5:1-11**.

7. What stands out to you in this story?

- *Note: The severity of the punishment for lying may seem graceless to us, but it was necessary to establish the apostolic authority in the early church and to safeguard the church's purity. Another way to look at it is this: What if God would have allowed lying and dishonesty in the early church?*¹

8. Why is lying to others and/or to God such a serious offense? In other words, why does God hate lying? (see also **Proverbs 6:16-19; 12:22**)

Read **Ephesians 4:15**.

9. What does it mean to "speak the truth in love" to other believers, and also to those who don't know the Lord? (see also **Colossians 4:5-6; 1 John 3:18**)

- Share about a time when someone spoke the truth in love to you. How did it impact you?

Read **Psalms 15:1-2; Proverbs 3:3-4; 12:19, 22**.

10. Why is telling the truth always better than lying?

Prayer (Suggested Time: 10-15 min.)

- Ask the Lord to show you any areas where you have lied and to help you be honest in every relationship and dimension of your life.
- Pray for any personal needs.

Important Church Announcements (Suggested Time: 2-3 min.)

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¹Footnote on Acts 5:1-11 in the *New Spirit-Filled Life Bible* and Ps. Bob's message on June 6-7, 2015.

BEST LIFE EVER (The 10 Commandments)

Session 10: The Tenth Commandment (Exodus 20:17)

DVD Teaching (Approx. 10 min.): Show Session 10 of Ps. Bob’s Topic Intro.

10 Discussion Questions (Suggested Time: 30-60 min.)

1. Is there anything that Pastor Bob said that stood out to you or challenged you?

Read **Exodus 20:17 and Luke 12:15.**

- *Note: “Covet means desire or lust. It is not the wanting of something that is wrong, but wanting it at the expense of others or from a motive of jealousy or envy.”¹*

2. How have you seen or experienced the violation of this commandment? Explain.

3. “We live in a ‘coveting culture’. We spend money we don’t have to buy stuff we don’t need to impress people we don’t like...” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?

4. What’s the difference between covetousness and ambition? For example, what’s the difference between coveting a position in a company and having ambition (i.e. goals, dreams) to attain the position?

Read **2 Samuel 11:1-4** (for the entire story, read **chapters 11 and 12 and Psalm 51**).

5. David coveted Bathsheba. How did this sin (breaking this commandment) lead David to breaking several more commandments? How many of the 10 Commandments did David break as a result of this decision?

6. Why does coveting something or someone often lead to other sin?

Read **Philippians 3:7-10, 13-14; 4:12-13.**

7. What was the “one thing” that Paul desired in life?

- How did he find contentment in this?

8. Why is contentment an antidote to covetousness? (see also **1 Timothy 6:6-7**)

Read **Psalm 37:4; Ecclesiastes 5:10-11; 12:13-14; and Matthew 5:6; 16:24-26.**

9. Why can material things or people (relationships) never truly satisfy us?

Read **Psalm 100:4; 107:8; Philippians 4:6-7.**

10. How does thankfulness help break covetousness?

Prayer (Suggested Time: 10-15 min.)

- Thank the Lord for all He has given to you.
- Pray for any personal needs.

Important Church Announcements (Suggested Time: 2-3 min.)

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¹ Footnote on Exodus 20:17 in the *New Spirit-Filled Life Bible*.