

Not Just A List . . .

What do the Ten Commandments mean for me today? Weren't they given to the Israelites, by Moses, a long time ago? This quarter you will see the purpose and value of the Ten Commandments. They show us where we fall short of God's holy requirement; they point to Jesus Christ as our only hope; and they show us how to live day-to-day in a sin-cursed world.



The Living My Faith

Devotional Bible Study is designed to help you dig into God's Word. Each lesson offers devotions for Monday through

Saturday, along with worksheet to be completed during your group study and articles that will help you better understand and apply God's Word.



Journal: Purchase a journal or notebook to record your personal thoughts and prayers. Bring your journal and student book to class

each week so that you can take notes during the lesson or write any special insights you gain from a particular activity. You may also use the journal for sermon notes or for prayer requests.



Bible study tools: In order for you to dig into God's Word, consider using a Bible dictionary and a concordance. If you are not familiar with these helpful guides, ask your pastor or youth leader for a recommendation. Or visit an online Bible tools Web site, such as www.blueletterbible.org. This site offers commentaries, maps, and many other tools to help you in your Bible study.

Regular Baptist Press is not responsible for the contents of any book, periodical, or Web page referenced in this publication. Reference in this publication of any Web site, product, process, service, or company does not constitute its endorsement or recommendation by Regular Baptist Press.

Living My Faith Student Book • Spring Quarter 2017 • Vol. 18, No. 3 • Published quarterly by Regular Baptist Press • Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004-7678 • Alex Bauman, editor • Copyright 2011 by Regular Baptist Press • Printed in U.S.A. • All rights reserved.

Perfect Authority

Monday

This quarter's topic is the Ten Commandments. Before we study the commandments, though, let's look at the Giver of the commandments.

1. Why would you be more willing to submit to the rules of a coach you've had for two years of undefeated seasons than to the rules of a new coach?
2. Read Exodus 20:2. What did God remind the Children of Israel about?
3. Why do you suppose God reminded them of this right before giving them the Ten Commandments?

This week you'll study actions and attributes of God that show He is the perfect authority.

Tuesday

Ultimately, God has authority over everything because He created everything.

1. Skim Genesis 1 and describe how God made the heavens, the earth, and all that's in them.
2. How did the seas know their boundaries and the plants know to reproduce after their own kind?
3. How did Adam and Eve know what to do in the Garden?
4. Explain how your answers to questions 1–3 show that God has authority because He is the Creator.

Wednesday

God specially formed the nation of Israel to be His people. Read the following verses and write how God began and grew the nation to whom He gave the Ten Commandments.

1. Genesis 15:1–5, 18
2. Genesis 45:4–8
3. Exodus 1:6, 7

The people to whom God gave the Ten Commandments would have heard all about what God had done for them. They would have known that God could be trusted.

Thursday

The Children of Israel had more than just history to prove to them that God is a trustworthy authority. They had just witnessed great acts of God on their behalf.

1. Read Exodus 1:8–14 and describe the Israelites' problem.
2. Whom did God raise up to deliver them (Exodus 3:4, 10)?

After ten plagues and the destruction of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea, God's people were free from bondage. God still continued to provide for them in their journey. For each of the following verses, record God's provisions.

3. Exodus 15:22–25
4. Exodus 16:12
5. Exodus 17:8–13

Friday

Through all the things God did for the nation of Israel, He showed them not only what He could do, but also Who He is. Exodus 15 records Moses' song after God parted the Red Sea. Read verses 11–13.

1. What characteristics, or attributes, of God did Moses include in his song?
2. How had God shown mercy to the Children of Israel?

The Egyptian gods were impersonal. The Egyptians wouldn't have expected their gods to know anything about them.

3. Read Exodus 2:24, 3:7, and 4:31; describe how God is so much different than the Egyptian gods.

Saturday

God is still very active in the lives of His people. Just as the Israelites knew and trusted God by His working among them, so we also can know and choose to trust God because of what He's done for us.

Read the following passages and list (a) what God has done and (b) what that shows us about Who He is.

1. Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11

2. 1 Peter 1:18, 19

3. Romans 5:6–8

WEEK 1

Memory Verse

**“Who is like unto thee, O LORD,
among the gods? who is like
thee, glorious in holiness, fear-
ful in praises, doing wonders?”
(Exodus 15:11).**



You're Not the Boss of Me!

by Erin Kealen

I have an older sister, and my parents considered her their handy-dandy built-in babysitter. In theory, Mom and Dad were right; Lisa was old enough to watch me, and she was capable enough to fix a decent macaroni and cheese dinner. However, by the time I reached junior high, most of those babysitting events turned into disasters. Often Lisa would take her babysitting privileges to the extreme and tell me to do something that seemed ridiculous, like cleaning her room or going to bed at 8:30. Our “discussions” over such issues turned into yelling matches, which often ended in my stomping away to my room, yelling over my shoulder:

“You’re Not the Boss of Me!”

The rest of the evening I would sit in my room and pout, reminding myself of the evil my sister had inflicted upon me. She was unfair! Her rules seemed stupid! What right did she have to be in charge, anyway?

You know, my sister may have been pushy and bossy, but that wasn’t the real issue. The real problem was how I perceived Lisa. To me, she was a sister, a person who had no place of authority in my life. Therefore, I had no reason to listen to or obey her.

Sadly, many people feel the same way about God. Some choose to ignore Him completely, pretending that He doesn't exist. Others view Him as a good-luck charm, something they can cling to when they want things to go their way. There are even some whose perception of God mirrored my view of my sister. They believe His rules are stupid, and they see no reason why they have to be under His authority. Unfortunately, these people fail to recognize four key truths about God.

God Made All Things.

You probably already know that Genesis 1 and 2 reveal how God spoke everything into existence. But have you ever stopped to consider what those chapters teach us about God Himself? He was never created; He has always been God. Also, He spoke all things into existence. Only a person with ultimate authority holds that power.

God Is in Charge of the Universe.

Ever wonder at the marvels of the universe? The perfect alignment of the planets; the balance of the seasons on earth? All of these things do not happen by chance; there is a Creator Who remains in control of His creation. Colossians 1:16 and 17 remind us that God holds all things together. Furthermore, all the events that shape our very lives are allowed because of the hand of the Almighty. Nothing, NOTHING takes Him by surprise.

God Is Perfect.

The Children of Israel, God's chosen people, were often reminded of God's holiness and perfection. Throughout the first five books of the Bible, God's people learned how high God's standard truly was. He gave them a set of ten rules to live by, rules that apply to us today. But the Ten Commandments are not only standards of right and wrong; they also teach us a very important truth. No matter how hard we try, we cannot measure up to God's standards. He is perfect, and He cannot and will not tolerate sin.

God has a plan for people.

The Bible clearly teaches that all of us have sinned (Romans 3:23), and because of our sin we are not right with God. Yet God loves us so much that He set into motion a plan to redeem sinners. He sent His Son to be our Savior, the only One Who could provide our salvation from sin.

These four truths not only teach us Who God is, but they also show us where we stand before Him. God deserves the place of the ultimate authority in each individual's life, and all mankind is subject to Him.

However, each of us has a choice to make: we choose to follow or to reject God. In order to accept Him, we recognize God as the perfect authority and accept His plan of salvation offered through Jesus. Only then can a person be right with God.

If you are a Christian, then you have chosen to accept God as the ultimate authority in your life. Now your job is to live like it. Get into God's Word and learn what God expects you to do. Talk to Him about areas you struggle with, and claim His promises to help you become the person He wants you to be. As you allow God to be the perfect authority in your life, your actions and your attitude will announce to the world,

"God is the boss of me."

Application

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name	GOD
Address	Heaven

WORK HISTORY

Read the following verses and describe God's work history.

Genesis 1:1
Genesis 2:7
Genesis 15:1–7, 18
Exodus 14:19
Exodus 15:26
Exodus 16:12
Exodus 17:8–15
Exodus 20:2

CHARACTER HISTORY

Read the following verses and describe God's character.

Exodus 15:11
Exodus 15:13
Exodus 2:24; 3:7, 16

Because of these supreme credentials and qualifications, I, _____,
recognize the Lord God Almighty as supreme authority over my life.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

"All that the LORD hath spoken we will do" (Exodus 19:8).

Profitable Commands

Monday

Imagine being an Israelite at the time God gave the Ten Commandments. You had been preparing for two full days for this event. Your fearless leader, Moses, had brought you to the base of Mount Sinai.

1. Read Exodus 19:18–20 and describe what the Children of Israel heard and saw.
2. Read Exodus 20:1–11 and list the first four commandments.
3. What do these commandments have in common?