

# TEN



*Thou shalt have no other gods before me.  
Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.  
Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.  
Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.  
Honour thy father and thy mother.  
Thou shalt not kill.  
Thou shalt not commit adultery.  
Thou shalt not steal.  
Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.  
Thou shalt not covet.*

# PROMISES



## WHERE WE'RE GOING

Rules. Most of us don't like them much. The word brings back memories of neatly printed restrictions at the front of a classroom. Don't do this, and don't do that. Rules often seem limiting and burdensome. They can feel like fun-killers.

The Ten Commandments, found in Exodus 20, are often treated as just another bunch of rules. They're posted in church lobbies and courthouses to "keep us straight." When they're followed (if they're followed), it's simply because they were given to us by an all-powerful God. But the Ten Commandments are so much more than that.

Yes, our powerful God is behind them, but He also gives them to us with the heart of a loving Father. After all, rules have reasons. Back in the day, our parents and teachers set rules to protect us. Rules keep us safe, and they help us to love others well.

When we study Exodus 20 through the lens of a loving father, they read more like the tender commandments than the Ten Commandments. It's easy to see goodness embedded in them from this perspective. As we kick off 2025, we're going to flip the script, looking at the loving reasons behind the Ten Commandments and uncover ten promises.

It is out of God's tender heart that He gives us ten promises, wanting only what's best for us – the people He loves so much.

# HOW WE'RE GETTING THERE

At Oasis Church, we want you to be confident in your ability to study the Bible on your own. While there are so many resources at your fingertips -- pastors, authors, and podcasts, to name a few -- these are just the icing on the cake. Your Bible is the cake!

We know that it can be challenging to understand the Bible sometimes. We want to equip you with tools to add to your tool belt, knowing that you can use these to help you hear from the Holy Spirit, wrestle through hard passages, and gain understanding into who God is and what He has for you.

## **Tool #1: Three Important Questions**

During our study through Ephesians, we used three questions to help us slow down and absorb the goodness of Scripture.

1. What does it say?
2. What does it mean?
3. How do I apply this?

You can access a resource with more information about this tool at [oasischurchhub.com](http://oasischurchhub.com) and click on the Resources button..

## **Tool #2: The Clarity Principle**

Sometimes when you're reading your Bible, you'll run into a section that gives you "mental whiplash." The meaning is confusing, or sometimes it seems to contradict what you may already know about God. When you run across a difficult or confusing passage of Scripture, *what do you do?*

**The Clarity Principle** is a tool that teaches you to interpret unclear Scripture with clear Scripture. In other words, instead of skipping hard passages or believing something wrong about God based on one verse, you pause to dig a little deeper. You read about that topic in other places in the Bible so you can understand better. We interpret from the whole of Scripture.

### **Example:**

Matthew 15:21-28 contains a strange story of Jesus' interaction with a Gentile woman, an outsider in every sense of the word. In response to the woman's cry for help, Jesus says to her, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." (Matt. 15:26 NET) Jesus sounds unkind here at best. At worst, he sounds racist. But those things can't be true of Jesus... *can they?*

Let's use **The Clarity Principle** to understand what the whole Bible says about the character of God and His Son, Jesus. A few places in Scripture that describe God and give us hints about what might be going on here include:

- John 8:28-29 - Jesus always said only what His father told Him.
- 1 John 4:8 - God is love.
- James 1 - Testing is one way He teaches and strengthens those He loves.

When we read across the entirety of Scripture instead of just forming our beliefs about God and Jesus from a single passage, we more clearly see that He is loving -- and not unkind, like we may have first thought in this one verse.

Throughout this study, you'll get a chance to use **The Clarity Principle** as we study the Ten Commandments. As we dig into the text together, we'll see these Ten Commandments unfold as God's ten promises to us. Let's go!



# THE TEN PROMISES

This study is written in layers so that you can use it no matter what phase of life you're in. Set aside time each week to spend with God and His Word. Use the **Starting Point** to look at one commandment each week. Ready to dig in? Move into the **Further Still** section to understand this promise in light of other Scripture passages. Want to press on more? The **Hitting Your Stride** section invites you to set the Scripture firmly in your heart.

God will meet you right where you are – start your time with Him in prayer, and let's begin!

# WEEK 1: THE FIRST PROMISE

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## Starting Point

1. Read **Exodus 20:3**, and write the first commandment below.
  
2. When you prayerfully think about this commandment, what comes to mind?
  
3. How does it change or deepen the way you think of this commandment to read it as this promise? *"You do not have to live in constant disappointment anymore because God is a loving father who desires what is good for you."*

## Further Still

Read each of these passages that relate to the first commandment/promise and write your thoughts about trading your disappointments for trust in your loving Father.

Galatians 6:9

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Philippians 4:19

Jeremiah 29:11

Psalm 34:17-19

Isaiah 40:31

Is there another verse that comes to mind that relates to this promise? You can add some of your own by doing a word search in The Bible App or at [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com).

### **Hitting Your Stride**

“With all my heart I seek you. Do not allow me to stray from your commands. In my heart I store up your words, so I might not sin against you. You deserve praise, O Lord. Teach me your statutes.” - Psalm 119:10-12, NET.



## WEEK 1: THE FIRST PROMISE

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We can store up God's words in our hearts by spending time in Scripture and memorizing verses. Each week, take some time committing to memory God's word to you. Not sure where to start or how to do this? Here are a few tips:

**Write it down-** Handwriting helps to cement information into your brain. You can write it in a notebook, type it into a word document, or print it out to hang somewhere.

**Repeat it often-** Read the verse out loud once each hour throughout the day. You can also repeat it when your mind is looping with fearful thoughts.

**Use a Bible memory app-** A Bible memory app like Remember Me can be a great tool for those who prefer to use electronics.

**Memorize it together-** Present the verse to your kids or a friend with enthusiasm and provide some context for it.

**Listen to the Bible-** Listening to the passage via an audio Bible can supplement your visual memorization tactics.

**Say it out loud-** Speaking the words aloud is an excellent way to burn them into your memory.

"According to a Google AI Overview on 'Tips for Memorizing Scripture,' (Google, Dec. 4, 2024)".

1. Memorize **Exodus 20:3**.
2. Memorize your favorite verse from this week that points to the promise.



## WEEK 2: THE SECOND PROMISE

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### Starting Point

1. Read **Exodus 20:4-6**, and write the second commandment below.
2. When you prayerfully think about this commandment, what comes to mind?
3. How does it change or deepen the way you think of this commandment to read it as this promise? *"You are free from rituals and religion because **nothing can prevent God from accomplishing His purposes.**"*

### Further Still

Read each of these passages that relate to the second commandment/promise. Write your thoughts about freeing yourself from your own works to rely entirely on God.

Romans 8:28

Psalms 119:116

Matthew 7:7

2 Peter 3:9

Psalms 57:2

Proverbs 13:19

Is there another verse that comes to mind that relates to this promise? You can add some of your own by doing a word search in The Bible App or at [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com).

### **Hitting Your Stride**

1. Memorize **Exodus 20:4**.
2. Memorize your favorite verse from this week that points to the promise.



## WEEK 3: THE THIRD PROMISE

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### Starting Point

1. Read **Exodus 20:7**, and write the third commandment below.
2. When you prayerfully think about this commandment, what comes to mind?
3. How does it change or deepen the way you think of this commandment to read it as this promise? *"You can trust in a Name that is above every Name because God is more powerful than all the other gods."*

### Further Still

Read each of these passages that relate to the third commandment/promise. Write your thoughts about honoring God's name above every other name.

Hebrews 10:23

Phillipians 2:9-11

Hebrews 12:2

Revelation 17:14

1 Corinthians 8:6

Hebrews 6:19-20

Is there another verse that comes to mind that relates to this promise? You can add some of your own by doing a word search in The Bible App or at [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com).

### **Hitting Your Stride**

1. Memorize **Exodus 20:7**.
2. Memorize your favorite verse from this week that points to the promise.



Psalm 23

Hebrews 4:9-11

Psalm 127:2

Philippians 4:6-7

Mark 2:27

Is there another verse that comes to mind that relates to this promise? You can add some of your own by doing a word search in The Bible App or at [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com).

### **Hitting Your Stride**

1. Memorize **Exodus 20:8**.
2. Memorize your favorite verse from this week that points to the promise.





John 13:35

Ephesians 4:1-2

Colossians 3:12-21

Proverbs 22:6

Is there another verse that comes to mind that relates to this promise?  
Or add some of your own by doing a word search at [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com)  
or The Bible app.

### **Hitting Your Stride**

1. Memorize **Exodus 20:12**.
2. Memorize your favorite verse from this week that points to the promise.



## WEEK 6: THE SIXTH PROMISE

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### Starting Point

1. Read **Exodus 20:13**, and write the sixth commandment below.
  
2. When you prayerfully think about this commandment, what comes to mind?
  
3. How does it change or deepen the way you think of this commandment to read it as this promise? “You are free from anger because *forgiven people forgive people.*”

### Further Still

Read each of these passages that relate to the sixth commandment/promise. Write your thoughts about stepping out of anger into forgiveness.

Mark 11:25

Matthew 18:21-22

Matthew 6:12

Luke 6:37

Ephesians 4:32

Luke 17:3-4

Is there another verse that comes to mind that relates to this promise? You can add some of your own by doing a word search in The Bible App or at [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com).

### **Hitting Your Stride**

1. Memorize **Exodus 20:13**.
2. Memorize your favorite verse from this week that points to the promise.



1 Corinthians 6:18

Galatians 5:19-21

1 Corinthians 10:13

Colossians 3:5

Is there another verse that comes to mind that relates to this promise? You can add some of your own by doing a word search in The Bible App or at [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com).

### **Hitting Your Stride**

1. Memorize **Exodus 20:14**.
2. Memorize your favorite verse from this week that points to the promise.



## WEEK 8: THE EIGHTH PROMISE

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### Starting Point

1. Read **Exodus 20:15**, and write the eighth commandment below.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. When you prayerfully think about this commandment, what comes to mind?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How does it change or deepen the way you think of this commandment to read it as this promise? *"You can be generous because you can trust God's provision."*

### Further Still

Read each of these passages that relate to the eighth commandment/promise. Write your thoughts about trusting God to meet your needs, shifting your mindset from scarcity to abundance.

Philippians 4:19

1 John 3:17

Hebrews 13:16

Luke 6:38

Luke 12:33

Proverbs 19:17

Is there another verse that comes to mind that relates to this promise?  
You can add some of your own by doing a word search in The Bible App  
or at [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com).

### **Hitting Your Stride**

1. Memorize **Exodus 20:15**.
2. Memorize your favorite verse from this week that points to the promise.



## WEEK 9: THE NINTH PROMISE

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### Starting Point

1. Read **Exodus 20:16**, and write the ninth commandment below.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. When you prayerfully think about this commandment, what comes to mind?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How does it change or deepen the way you think of this commandment to read it as this promise? *"You can be authentic because you can trust God's approval."*

### Further Still

Read each of these passages that relate to the ninth commandment/promise. Write your thoughts about putting off falsehoods and false selves to live as your truest, God-created self.

2 Corinthians 8:21

Colossians 3:9



James 1:26

Psalms 25:5

Matthew 5:8

Proverbs 10:9

Is there another verse that comes to mind that relates to this promise? You can add some of your own by doing a word search in The Bible App or at [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com).

### **Hitting Your Stride**

1. Memorize **Exodus 20:16**.
2. Memorize your favorite verse from this week that points to the promise.



## WEEK 10: THE TENTH PROMISE

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### Starting Point

1. Read **Exodus 20:17**, and write the tenth commandment below.
2. When you prayerfully think about this commandment, what comes to mind?
3. How does it change or deepen the way you think of this commandment to read it as this promise? *"You can be content because God has given you more than enough."*

### Further Still

Read each of these passages that relate to the tenth commandment/promise. Write your thoughts about finding deep contentment that slays covetousness.

1 Timothy 6:6-7

2 Corinthians 12:10

Hebrews 13:5

Matthew 6:25-33

Psalms 37:3-5

Philippians 4:12-13

Is there another verse that comes to mind that relates to this promise? You can add some of your own by doing a word search in The Bible App or at [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com).

### **Hitting Your Stride**

1. Memorize **Exodus 20:17**.
2. Memorize your favorite verse from this week that points to the promise.

