



10 COMMANDMENTS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The First Commandment: No Other Gods

(Deuteronomy 5.1-7, 22)

The week of September 16th, 2018

OPENING EXERCISES

Since it's still early and you might have folks who couldn't make it last week (or this is your first meeting), spend some time having everyone introduce themselves. Go around the room and have everyone share their name, where they live, what they do during the day, etc.

Talk about your group schedule and format, expectations, how your meetings will go, etc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Share the following things coming up in the life of the church:

- **Free Sale | Saturday, September 22, 9-12p, Church Lower Level**

Please join us for a great opportunity to declutter and give outgrown women, children, and baby clothes, toys, shoes and accessories and bless others/all in the community. Everything is FREE! **NEW DROPOFF LOCATION:** Please bring all donations to 4414 Floral Ave. during Sunday services. Check The City for more information: <https://goo.gl/f12geX>

- **New City Guys' Burger Triathlon | Saturday, September 29th 8am, noon, and 7p**

Guys...join us for a burger, TWO burgers, or THREE, that's right THREE, burgers in one day during our New City Guys' Burger Triathlon on Saturday, August 29th. (There'll be ample time in between stops to head home to do chores and/or watch college football and/or nap). Visit the City for a full listing of locations and times: <https://goo.gl/V7uxvT>

- **New City Women's Retreat | October 5-6**

Women of New City! Join us for the annual fall retreat October 5-6 at the Athletes in Action Retreat Center in Xenia! This year, our retreat speaker will be Beth Guckenberger of Back2Back Ministries and author of a new book, "Start with Amen". For additional details and registration, please visit <https://newcitycincy.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/153273>

ICBREAKER

If you could have 3 wishes granted (and no...you can't ask for more wishes), what would they be?

OPENING PRAYER

Open your group in prayer. Pray extemporaneously, or use this prayer:

Lord, meet us tonight as we talk and pray. Your Word says Where two or more are gathered in your name, you are there. May we experience your presence tonight. Amen.

STUDY/DISCUSSION

1. Read **Deuteronomy 5.1-7, 22**. This first commandment on the surface seems as simple as can be: “You shall have no other gods before me.” And yet humans have found innumerable ways to break it. Today we don’t typically have figurines or statues as idols, but what “gods” are the most popular today?
2. Verse 1 - What significance is there in the words HEAR, LEARN, and DO in this call to obedience?
3. David Bisgrove says, “There is no freedom without law; there is no liberty without restriction; there is no fulfillment without sacrifice... If you liberate a fish from a fish bowl, it will die. If you liberate a train from a track, it will wreck.” Can you think of any ways that restrictions can actually lead to freedom? (physically, financially, spiritually, psychologically)
4. Verse 6 - How does the preamble to the Ten Commandments shape our understanding of the nature of the commands?
5. Compare verse 7 to Deuteronomy 6:4. If other gods don’t exist, why the need for a command not to follow them?
6. John Calvin has said that our hearts are a perpetual factory of idols. Do you agree?
7. What practical steps can you take to put God first in your life?
8. How does this passage point us to Jesus? (see John 1:14-18; Hebrews 12:1-2)
9. In what ways is a community centered on God (striving to embody the First Commandment) beautiful? How can we start to better live this out? (yourself, the group, the church)

PRAY

Take some time to pray together. This can be done together as a whole group, or in smaller groups. Exchange prayer requests. You may also use the prayer below if it’s helpful. (And leaders, follow up with a post on the City or as a “Resource” in Planning Center with a list of prayer requests as a reminder to be praying for one another).