

# God's Commandments

BASED ON EXODUS 20

# PIX

Summer Les. 04

*WHILE THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL STAND  
BEFORE MOUNT SINAI, GOD SPEAKS FROM  
THE MOUNTAIN AND GIVES THEM THE TEN  
COMMANDMENTS:*

I am the Lord your God. You must not worship other gods.

You must not make any idols.

You must not use the name of the Lord your God wrongly.

Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Respect your father and your mother.

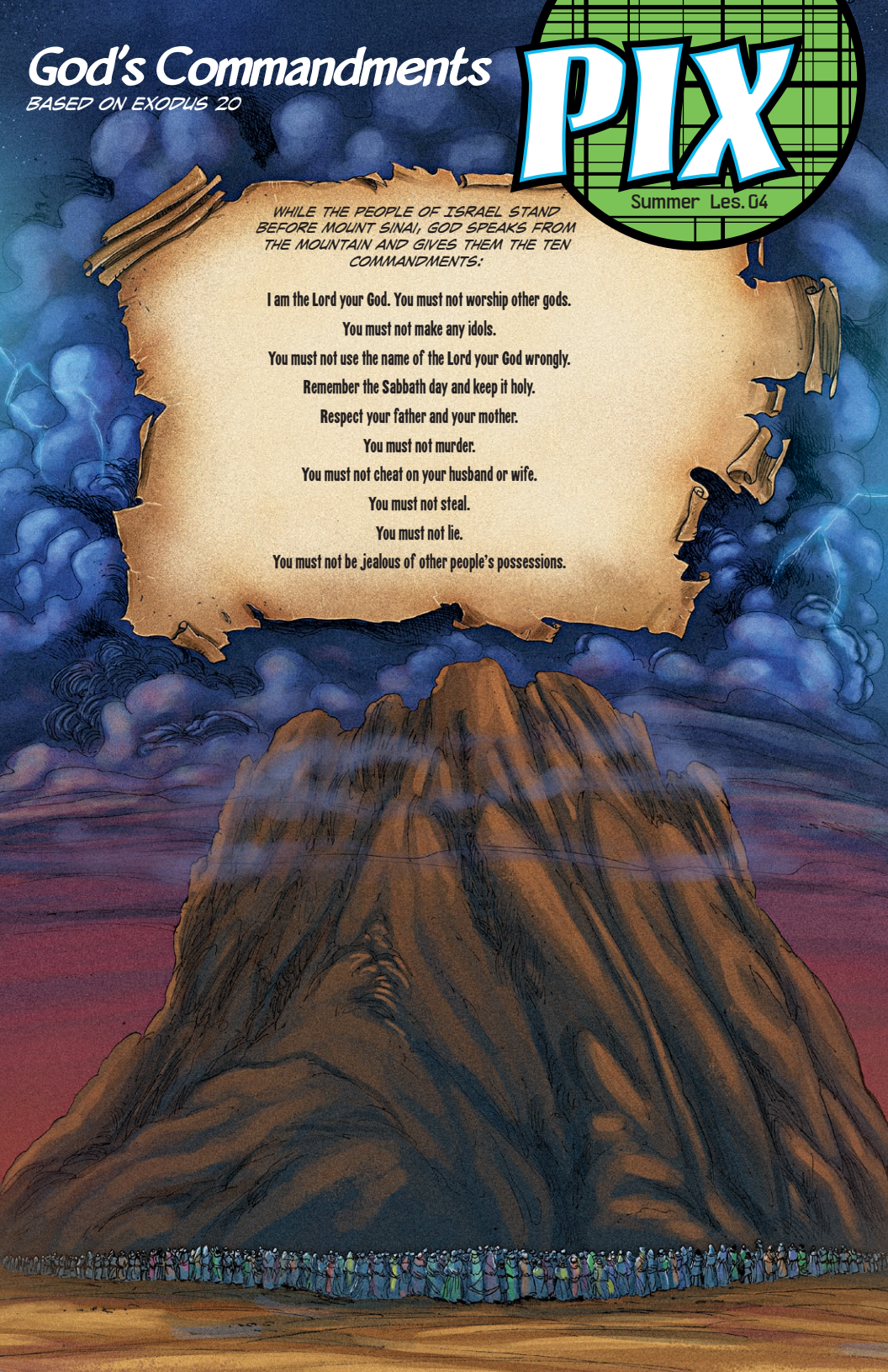
You must not murder.

You must not cheat on your husband or wife.

You must not steal.

You must not lie.

You must not be jealous of other people's possessions.





# CITY SOFTY



Jeremy shivered and scratched the mosquito bites on his legs.

"Try a marshmallow," Daniel urged. He sat across the campfire from Jeremy.

Jeremy watched Dan gulp the shriveled, brown marshmallow in one bite.

"No, thank you. I'm not hungry," Jeremy said. He *had* to be polite to Dan and his dad. His mother would have fits if he wasn't. Besides, it wasn't their fault that she'd made him come on this camping trip.

"It'll do you good to get out of the city," his mother had argued when he told her he'd rather stay home. "Mr. Foster was good to ask you. You'd insult him by saying no."

Jeremy knew Mr. Foster felt sorry for him because he had no father to take him on trips. And usually Jeremy liked the way Dan and his dad talked about God and His love. But he wished they wouldn't drag him along as they tramped around mosquito country and ate food that tasted like burnt offerings.

Something yowled—a little too close—and Jeremy jumped.

“That’s just a coyote,” Daniel laughed.

Mr. Foster was more reassuring. “Don’t worry, Jeremy, there aren’t dangerous animals in these woods.” Then he yawned. “Bedtime, boys. We’ll have to be up at dawn to catch enough fish for breakfast.”

Dawn? Jeremy groaned as he slid into his sleeping bag on the hard, lumpy ground. He wondered if he could stand four more days of this.

The next morning started out even worse. First he had to wash in cold lake water that smelled like rotting fish. Then he had to help Dan carry tons of fishing gear to the lake.

“I’ll bait your hook this first time,” Mr. Foster

said. “Then you’re on your own. If you can’t bait your own hook, you have no business fishing.”

Jeremy didn’t want to fish in the first place, and he watched with a sick stomach as Mr. Foster jammed the worm on the hook. Mr. Foster cast Jeremy’s line for him. A few yards away Dan cast his own line expertly.

*With luck, no fish will want this worm,* thought Jeremy. *I wish I were back in the city.*

Suddenly there was a tug on Jeremy’s fishing line.

“Jeremy! You’ve got a bite!” Dan shouted. “Give the rod a good pull, and then reel it in!”

Jeremy obeyed, but the line came in empty.

“He got away,” Dan groaned. “Bait up and jerk harder next time.”

Glumly, Jeremy looked at the





empty hook. "Greedy fish," he muttered. Trying not to look, he poked another worm at the hook.

Dan laughed, "You can't bait a hook with your eyes closed!"

Jeremy blushed, but finally managed to get the worm halfway on the hook. He stood up ready to cast. It looked easy when Dan did it. But when Jeremy tried, the line flew straight up and got stuck in the branch of a tree.

"Try moving around and pulling it out easy," Mr. Foster called.

Jeremy tried again, but nothing worked. Finally Dan came and helped Jeremy free his line. "Cast outward, not up," Dan advised.

Jeremy cast again, holding the rod as if it were glass. This time the line didn't even reach the water.

"Reel in and try again," Dan said, looking exasperated.

It took two more tries, but Jeremy finally got the line in the water. He was glad when

Dan went back to his rod.

Jeremy knew he wasn't meant to hear

Dan complaining to his father. But

Dan's voice carried in the

quiet morning air.

"Why'd we bring that city softy?" Dan grumbled. "He can't do anything!"

Jeremy didn't hear Mr. Foster's reply. But he knew both of them thought he was stupid. As if it was *his* fault his dad wasn't around to show him how to do things.

Jeremy slapped at a mosquito and pulled his jacket close. He didn't have to stand around and fish if he didn't want to. He waited until Dan and his father

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**Across the field stood  
an enormous bull.  
"Help!" Jeremy yelled.**

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were busy before reeling in. Then Jeremy laid his rod on the bank and walked away.

Let them grub around with squishy worms. He'd head back to camp and eat cereal for breakfast. The two of them were so crazy about fishing, they'd never miss him!

Jeremy trudged a mile before he realized he was lost. He thought he knew the way back to the tent. Instead he'd walked into a maze of brush and weeds.

"I'll turn back and start over," he said out loud. But the weeds and brush got thicker. Branches tore at Jeremy's

clothes and he stumbled in circles. At last he came to an open field he hadn't noticed before. Where was he?

Just then Jeremy heard a snort and a bellow. Across the field stood an enormous bull, watching him. It lowered its head and began to paw the ground.

"Help!" Jeremy yelled and began to run. Now he remembered Mr. Foster saying part of this area was pastureland where cattle grazed.

"It was stupid to forget," Jeremy muttered as he ran back into the brush. "It was stupid to think I could find the campsite on my own."

When the bull was out of sight, Jeremy backtracked his steps. He'd gone only a few yards when he heard Dan and his father shouting his name.

"Jeremy! Jeremy!" they called, sounding worried.

Jeremy hollered back and soon Dan and his father appeared. They both looked relieved as they joined Jeremy near an old oak tree.

"I guess you heard what I said back there," Dan said, looking down at his hiking boots as he spoke. "I'm sorry. It wasn't fair to expect you to know about things I've done all my life."

Jeremy gulped. Dan and his father had done a lot for him—cooking the food, baiting his hook, and worrying about him. Jeremy knew that he came across as grumpy and ungrateful to them.

"I'm sorry too," Jeremy said. "I haven't tried very hard to have a good time." He then told Dan and Mr. Foster about the bull.

"You knew enough to run," Mr. Foster laughed.

Jeremy followed Dan and his father back to the campsite. The fire was made, and three fish had been cleaned for frying. They even had pan biscuits and gravy ready. They hadn't eaten without him.

"Hey, I'm starved," Jeremy laughed. "Maybe I'll learn to enjoy camping after all."



# In Everything Give THANKS?

Sometimes it's easy to feel thankful, and sometimes it's not. Picture yourself in each of these cartoons. For each, score 5 points if your reaction would be more like A, 1 point if it would be more like B. Then total up your points.

<p>A. THE PICNIC'S SPOILED! LOOK! HERE COME ALL THE <b>ANTS!</b></p>  <p>SCORE <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>B. WHAT A GREAT DAY, LORD! THE WEATHER'S PERFECT!</p>  <p>SCORE <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>A. LORD, HOW COULD YOU LET THIS HAPPEN? MY NEW BIKE IS WRECKED!</p>  <p>SCORE <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>B. THAT WAS CLOSE, LORD, THANK YOU THAT NO ONE WAS HURT.</p>  <p>SCORE <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>A. WE LOST AGAIN, LORD. WHY CAN'T YOU HELP US WIN AT LEAST ONE GAME?!</p>  <p>SCORE <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>B. IT WAS CLOSER THIS TIME, THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, LORD.</p>  <p>SCORE <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>A. WHY CAN'T WE HAVE A SAIL-BOAT INSTEAD OF THIS OLD TUB?</p>  <p>SCORE <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>B. WHAT A FABULOUS VACATION! THANKS, LORD.</p>  <p>SCORE <input type="checkbox"/></p>

If you scored 4 or 8 points—you've got a thankful view of things; 12 points—you're usually thankful, but some things bring on the grumbles; 16 points—you usually grumble first and thank later; 20 points—you've got a bad case of the grumbles.



**TOTAL**



# Pix Puzzle Page

Find the following words in the word search puzzle. Words may go forwards or backwards, up and down, across, or diagonally. What do all the words have in common?

covet  
donkey  
false  
testimony  
father  
gods  
honor

idol  
maidservant  
manservant  
misuse  
mother  
murder  
neighbor

ox  
remember  
Sabbath  
steal  
wife  
worship

N	R	X	K	N	J	M	M	X	N	J	L	D	G	R	B	N
P	Y	F	I	S	R	X	L	U	N	Y	L	T	D	P	L	Z
B	J	E	A	D	A	O	W	J	R	Y	T	W	G	B	D	M
G	R	B	K	L	O	B	Z	O	W	D	J	T	Z	X	N	Y
D	O	Y	Y	N	S	L	B	Q	R	T	E	Y	Y	G	D	H
Z	Z	D	V	Y	O	E	K	A	N	S	M	R	R	R	O	Q
Y	Y	V	S	G	M	D	T	A	T	A	H	R	P	N	Z	L
G	N	N	Z	O	R	J	V	E	I	H	E	I	O	G	A	N
Z	F	A	T	H	E	R	D	D	S	M	C	R	P	E	N	Z
L	L	H	Y	Y	E	X	S	V	E	T	N	O	T	N	N	J
D	E	T	D	S	B	E	J	M	R	E	I	S	V	X	R	J
R	Y	V	N	P	R	L	B	B	I	M	L	M	D	E	J	L
T	G	A	L	V	N	E	G	G	I	Z	T	Q	O	K	T	L
E	M	Y	A	N	R	N	H	S	R	Y	B	L	Q	N	N	T
K	F	N	L	K	R	B	U	N	R	B	V	X	T	Q	Y	G
X	T	I	G	M	O	S	Y	N	L	N	R	W	V	W	N	T
Y	T	L	W	R	E	N	V	W	R	D	M	Y	T	R	N	R



### Pause a minute

1. For this week, gather your family together and work through this devotion together.

Got the latest clothes—and beauty? Or the newest device—and status? Or top athletic shoes—and speed? This world will tell you there's always something bigger, better, more to be had and that you'll be all the more for it. But God says: Stop, take stock of all you've got, and find more in who you are and who I am. **Read Hebrews 13:5.**



### Take a look back

3. What have you worked to get or do that ended up costing you time and money or caused you trouble? What's been given to you that blessed you?



### Record your thoughts

4. Begin a list of things money can't buy and no one can take from your family that are priceless. Using different colors, have each person circle what means the most to him or her. Praise God for that blessing!

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Read more this week about being content:

☐ Exodus 20:15, 17 ☐ Luke 12:13-21, 33–34 ☐ Philippians 4:11

**faith  
forward**  
in touch with God



### Play it out

2. Real joy doesn't come from what can be washed away in a flood or burned by fire. Those new jeans you just spent all your cash to buy can ruin with one rip the first time worn. That new smart phone can shatter and service stop with one accidental drop. The things of this world will always cost you something, but contentment for what God gives can never be taken. Look around you. What is really important? How content are you?

### key verse

**Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have. Hebrews 13:5**

