

Session Two

Nearly everyone has heard of the Ten Commandments, but many have not thought very deeply about why these commands were given or what role they play in the Christian life.

The goal of this session is to see that God's commandments are a reflection of His own character and that they reveal our need of Jesus Christ. This can be a tough pill for us to swallow, but it is essential for understanding our need of God's grace and forgiveness.

Some members of your group may feel that they measure up pretty well to the Ten Commandments. Jesus once spoke with a man who felt this way and asked him a question that revealed his fundamental selfishness (Matthew 19:16–22). You may find it helpful to refer to this story and to the portion of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus explains that the Law searches our attitudes as well as our actions (Matthew 5:21–30).

Questions three and four give good opportunity to probe the difficulty of keeping the commandments. As the group begins to think more deeply about the commandments, you will find that they will have a greater appreciation of how difficult they really are.

Your discussion here is important because it will help your group to understand why we need the power of the Holy Spirit in order to grow in fulfilling the law of God.

Question six moves the discussion onto our hope in Jesus Christ. No Christian ever fulfills God's Law perfectly in this life, but by the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to move in that direction and to keep growing in all that it means to live in a way that is pleasing to God.

It will be important to end this discussion on the positive note of the life that is made possible by the power of the Holy Spirit.