

For the Family

Read or tell the story of Joseph and Potiphar's Wife (Genesis 39:1-23)

Highlight the following:

- Joseph had been sold into slavery by his brothers, but ended up in a good place working for a man named Potiphar.
- Potiphar's wife wanted to be alone with Joseph in a way that would be unfaithful to Potiphar.
- Joseph knew this would be wrong, and refused her.
- She tried more than once, and even tried to trick Joseph.
- Joseph refused every time. He said he would not sin against Potiphar or against God.
- Potiphar's wife got mad at Joseph and made up a story that Joseph had attacked her.
- Potiphar was forced to throw Joseph into prison.
- But Joseph kept doing the right thing, even in prison. The jailer even put him in charge of other prisoners.
- Eventually Joseph was freed, and ended up being put in charge of all of Egypt.
- Joseph stayed faithful, even when it was hard.

Talk Together about what it means to be faithful. Talk about being loyal and dependable, no matter what happens.

It's important for friends to be faithful to each other.

It's even more important for husbands and wives to be faithful to each other.

Review the first six commandments:

Put God First
Worship Him Only
Keep God's Name Holy
Keep the Lord's Day Holy
Honor your Parents
Do not Murder
Do not Commit Adultery

Pray together that you will always be able to be faithful to God, your family and your friends.



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: ETCHED IN STONE

You Shall Not Commit Adultery

The Seventh Commandment

Exodus 20:14

You shall not commit adultery.

Last Week: The first four commandments were about Israel's relationship with God. The last six were about their relationships with each other. These were fundamental attitudes and behaviors which would enable the Israelites to have a cohesive community where they would be free to serve God and each other. The first of these is the commandment to honor one's parents. This was the starting point for God's community: the family. It is the only commandment with a promise: that they would live long in the land God was giving them.

This Week: The last six commands (honor your parents, don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie, don't covet) are the foundation upon which God will build his nation of Israel. God says in very simple language, "Do not commit adultery." God knows the pain that is caused when one spouse is unfaithful to the other –not only to them, but to their family, and even to the culture at large. God expects his people to be faithful to one another.

Observing

Read Exodus 20:14 – *You shall not commit adultery.*

1. What do we learn about God in this commandment?

2. Commandments 6-10 (on murder, adultery, theft, lying, and coveting) can be seen as building blocks for a civilization. How would a prohibition against adultery help build a strong civilization?

3. What do you think is the prevalent view in our culture concerning adultery?

4. What happens to a couple when one or both commit adultery?

Connecting the Dots

1. Jesus' View of this Commandment

Read Matthew 5:27-28

What does Jesus add to the commandment?

Read Matthew 5:29-30

Is this meant to be interpreted literally?

If not, why would Jesus use such language?

Compare this to Matthew 5:23-26.

Why do you think Jesus is so concerned about anger and lust?

2. A Sin Against God

Read Genesis 39:9. This is Joseph's reaction when Potiphar's wife attempted to seduce him.

Read Psalm 51:4 – This is David speaking to his affair with Bathsheba, a married woman.

They both indicate that adultery was a sin against God.

Why do you think they would say that?

What makes adultery a sin against God?

3. Forgiveness

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10.

Think about the list of those who will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Now read verse 11: *And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*

What does this tell you about sin?

What does this tell you about salvation?

Continuing the Journey

1. How do you react to the high standard that God calls us to in this area?

Do you think it is unreasonable? Do you give up hope of ever achieving it?

Are you willing to work toward this standard?

What steps will you take?

2. Reflect now on the forgiveness available in Jesus. God calls us to an incredibly high standard, yet also offers forgiveness.

How thankful are you that your sin can be forgiven?

Express your thankfulness to the group, if you can.

3. To which of the *Next Steps* will you commit?

Next Steps:

- I will guard my heart and mind from mental adultery and pledge to live a life of sexual purity.
- I will not flirt with impurity of any kind.
- I will value and protect the sacredness of marriage.
- I will turn my heart to my spouse and remain faithful.
- I choose to invest in my marriage to make it everything that God created it to be.

Memory Verse – Exodus 20:14 – *You shall not commit adultery.*

During this series we will be memorizing a simplified version of the 10 Commandments. Here are the first seven:

*You shall have no other gods before me.
You shall not make or worship any idol.
You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
Honor your father and mother
You shall not murder*