

## Grades 7-12

ORD FAITH BAPTISM GOD  
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GOD FATHER SPIRIT HOPE LORD  
BODY SPIRIT HOPE LORD FAITH BAPT

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## Matthew 22:37

37 Jesus replied:  
"Love the Lord your  
God with all your heart  
and with all your soul  
and with all your  
mind.

Our Wednesday night Youth Life Skills classes with Tom are back!

Come out for fun,  
fellowship and maybe  
even a little learning  
about topics important  
to you.

7:00pm every  
Wednesday night only  
at LWA!



# The Thread

Discovering The Thread of the Gospel Through The Big-Picture Story of the Bible

**Grades 7-12 - Sundays @ 9:15 & 11:00**

After making it safely across the Red Sea, by the hand of God, the Israelites make their way to Mt. Sinai where they receive God's rules for living as His chosen people, also known as The Ten Commandments.

We said that God did not just come up with a bunch of random rules for the Israelites to follow. He had a purpose for giving the rules to them that went along with His purpose for the Israelites themselves.

God's purpose for the Israelites was to set them apart from the world as His chosen people to display the love and power of God to the world. The Ten Commandments tell God's chosen people how they are to live.

We looked at the first four commandments and noted that they all had to do with our relationship with God. They reinforced that God is the only God. Since the Israelites were just recently freed from 400 years of living in Egypt, where they worshiped many gods, and are heading to Canaan, where they too worshiped many gods, their relationship with God had to be made very clear.

The remaining six commandments all had to do with our relationship with each other. Our natural human instinct leans us toward sin and left to the ways of the world, we would naturally break all of these commandments.

If the Israelites truly obeyed God's commandments they would have been 'set apart' as God's people and would be noticed by the world showing God's presence and love to the nations around them. But, as we see all through the Bible, the Israelites didn't do too well with following God's rules. They barely even received God's commandments for them before they started a long repetitive cycle of disobeying God.

We looked at ourselves and agreed that we are really no better than the Israelites when it comes to following God's rules for His chosen people. We wondered why God would impose such rules knowing that we could not possibly follow them.

The answer is Grace. God shows us that we cannot "earn" our salvation by following rules. We can't do it on our own. We must depend on God's Grace to receive salvation and eternal life.

That's good news for us because by trying to "earn" our salvation by doing "works", we depend on ourselves for success which we should all know by now never, ever works out. By receiving the gift of salvation by God's Grace, we depend on God instead.

We also learned another benefit of Grace. While God's Grace does NOT give us a "license to sin" knowing we're forgiven and already saved but rather teaches us to say NO to ungodly behavior and actually be joyful behaving in a Godly way.

We said that Jesus was actually able to live according to God's Law and lead a sinless life by breaking all 10 Commandments down to just one word, "Love". Jesus' true love for God and His true love for others allowed Him to live without sin joyfully and in peace rather than being burdened by trying to "follow rules".

We said that when we truly receive God's grace, depending on Jesus for our salvation, it sets us free to fully love God with all our heart and our soul and our mind which leads us to joyfully live Godly lives simply because of our love for God.

We also have peace knowing that when we do mess up, because we will mess up, we will always be forgiven through the grace of God which allows us to try again through our love for God. We saw that while the "rules" are still there, following them is not a burden on us when we receive God's grace.

We finished by looking at how we obey, or disobey, God in our own lives and that if it seems stressful or like a burden on us then we are probably depending on ourselves to do "good things" rather than receiving God's grace and doing "good works" joyfully through our love for God by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Join us next time when the Israelites enter into the Promised Land with Joshua as their new leader.

## Community Service

Our monthly community service at Child Protective Services will be on Saturday (December 19th) We meet at LWA at 9:30am and return around lunch.



Please Email us with any questions.

## New Year's Eve Youth Lock-in!



That's right, bring in the new year with your friends in our first overnight new years eve lock-in.

Fun, friends &

Fellowship!

Starting at 9pm New Year's Eve and ending at 8am New Year's Day!

**Parents:** Please let us know if you would like to help chaperon this fun event by replying to this email, by calling 602-684-1820 or by stopping in to see us in the Youth Room any Sunday.

**Bible verses referenced in this lesson: Exodus 19:1-6, Exodus 20:1-17, Titus 2:11-14**

Let us know if you have any questions.

Have a blessed Week,

Chris & Michelle Miller  
1 Youth Ministry