

# Dear parents,

*Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father!* I am excited to share this week's box with all of you, and I hope you enjoy spending time with your children creating the craft and diving into the lesson that goes along with it. This week we are focusing on the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are an important part of Scripture and the Christian life that many people will avoid talking about with young children because of the complicated nature of Law and the "grown up" language/subject matter of some of the Commandments (especially the 6th), but please don't let that deter you from conversations with even your littlest ones about this topic. Just as people of all ages need to hear the Gospel, we all need to learn about the Law as well. It makes the Gospel all the more sweet! If we don't know the depth of our sinful nature & the ways we go against God's desire for us, we aren't able to fully see how amazing it is that He would willingly send His Son Jesus to pay the price for all of that sin.

This means that you as the parent and teacher of the faith today need to emphasize the *love* that God has for us while talking about the Commandments. It can be easy to make the Law wholly something that we must *do*, something that is required of us to earn God's love. Reassure your children that God loves us in spite of our inability to perfectly keep the Commandments. While there is certainly a time and place for administering the Law, don't ever forget to apply the balm of the Gospel as it is needed too!

The best way to help your children learn the Commandments is to help them apply them to their own life. If you have rules in your home, talk with them about how they might relate to the Commandments. When your children need to be disciplined, remind them that rules are not just a means of punishment, but that they exist to keep us safe. For example, if your children are constantly fighting and hitting each other, remind them of the 5th Commandment. Maybe they aren't explicitly *murdering* each other, but are they doing their best to care and protect every living thing? Wouldn't they feel safer and happier if they did that instead of fighting? It can also be tempting to fall back on just stating the 4th Commandment as a parent any time your children are disrespecting you, but remember to explain to them *why* it's wrong to talk back to you or ignore you (just as some examples). Try to avoid using "because I said so" - or even, "because God said so" - as your explanation if they ask why they have to follow the rules. As voices of authority, those are fair reasons... but children need to see the ways that rules are good and helpful for them.

Your children also need to see you modeling good Christ-like behavior, too. This means holding yourself accountable (perhaps even encouraging *them* to hold *you* accountable!) for keeping the Commandments as well. It would be hypocritical of you to say they must honor their father and mother and all authorities, but then in the next breath complain about your boss; or to say that they should put God first in their life and remember the Sabbath by taking time to rest while you are instead making an idol out of your job and working 7 days a week. Children learn through observation, and you are their greatest teacher and model. Set a healthy example for them. Plus... God's rules are good for you, too!

I am praying for you each, as always. God loves you - and so do I!

Your sister in Christ,

DCE Intern Dana Otto

*P.S. Here's a little Lent connection for you: Did you know that the word "Maundy" (as in, Maundy Thursday) comes from the word mandatum, meaning "command"? The Thursday of Holy Week is called Maundy Thursday in reference to Jesus giving his disciples "a new command" at the Last Supper: to love one another. Reference the Ten Commandments and loving one another again as we draw nearer to Maundy Thursday in a few weeks!*

# TEN COMMANDMENTS CrossBox Content Guide

- **Parent Letter/Content Guide**
  - This is what you're reading right now!
- **Ten Commandments Clay Tablet Craft**
  - Your main project for this box! See separate sheet for instructions and contact Dana if you have any questions about how to do this.
- **Ten Commandments Lesson Sheet**
  - Read the short lesson while you make your clay tablet craft to learn about the Ten Commandments, God's loving gift of Law!
- **Commandment Activity & Coloring Pages**
  - Spend some extra time thinking about the Ten Commandments with these fun activity and coloring pages.
- **March Youth & Family Koinonia Pages**
  - In case you missed it... check out the news from the March Koinonia. Make special note of the "Holy Week Scavenger Hunt" information!
- **Who Was St. Patrick?**
  - Read up on the history behind this holiday and color a picture of the Saint himself!
- **Memory Verse Challenge Card: Matthew 22:37, 39**
  - Collect a new Verse card in every CrossBox. How is your memory work going on the last verses? See if you can memorize this one before your next box arrives!
- **"GET EGGED" Announcement Flyer + Order Form**
  - Check out this fun opportunity for a safe, at-home Easter Egg Hunt brought to you by the Boards of Education, Evangelism, and Missions!
- **Upcoming Events/Announcements**
  - See what's on the calendar this month for Holy Cross.
- **Comment Card**
  - Your feedback/constructive criticisms/suggestions will help us fine-tune our CrossBox content to make it as effective and exciting as possible for your family!

***Need another copy of a specific resource?***

Go to [hcross.com/crossbox](http://hcross.com/crossbox) & click the "**10 Commandments**" section to request it/print one at home!

**Watch the LIVE Unboxing Video at 4:30pm on Wednesday\* to chat with Dana and get a personal shout-out, answer riddles or play games, and learn more about your box contents!**

*\* Can't catch the live feed? No worries! The videos will be posted afterwards to watch whenever you are able.*



Scan the code to the left, or visit [hcross.com/crossbox](http://hcross.com/crossbox) and click on the "Unboxing Videos" links.