



Discovery 4

The Great Commandment and The Great Commission

Introduction

The Ten Commandments were given by God to Moses to help the Israelites become a unified nation. They were rules by which to live. ([Exodus 20:1-17](#))

The first four commandments speak of duty to God; the last six commandments speak of duty to neighbor.

Duty to God –

- 1. You shall have no other gods but me.*
- 2. You shall not make for yourself any idol.*
- 3. You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God. 4. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.*

Duty to Neighbor –

- 5. Honor your father and your mother.*
- 6. You shall not commit murder.*
- 7. You shall not commit adultery.*
- 8. You shall not steal.*
- 9. You shall not be a false witness*
- 10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

Jesus summarized all ten of the commandments into the concept of love; and added a new commandment – to love our neighbors. Jesus' summary of the law shifted the emphasis from a list of things people should not do, to an invitation to be lovingly involved in the lives of all people.

Summary of the Law – The Great Commandment

In [Mark 12:29-31](#), Jesus identifies the greatest commandment, in which he quotes the scripture from [Deuteronomy 6:4-5](#).

Jesus answered, “The first is, Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.

The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.”

The Great Commission

Jesus also gave his disciples a commission – a job to do – a ministry, and that was to go out, make disciples, teach them and baptize them. And he promised that he would always be with them.

All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. [Matthew 28:19-20](#)

The Baptismal Covenant

The five promises we make in baptism are found in the *Book of Alternative Services*, page 159. The fourth promise reminds of us the great commandment:

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself? Response: I will, with God’s help.

Opening Prayer

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (American BCP 231)

Questions to Think About

God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites while they were on a journey to the Promised Land. How was God revealed to them through these commandments? What impact on their journey did these commandments have?

What is the Great Commission? How can it be lived out today? The video speaks of levels of commitment. Where are you on this journey?

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View the video: Discovery 4.

Key Points

The Ten Commandments

The Great Commandment

The Great Commission

Questions

1. Read the Summary of the Law – the Great Commandment, on pages 1-2 of this Participant's Guide or the Bible ([Mark 12:29-31](#)). (Also [Deuteronomy 6:4-5](#)) In what way do you think of this Great Commandment as a gift or challenge? What impact does it have on you? What impact does it have on society today?

2. After hearing this new commandment, one of the lawyers asked Jesus to tell him who his neighbor was. Jesus responded with the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Read this parable in [Luke 10:5-37](#). Who is our neighbor? How can we be a good Samaritan today?

W R A P - U P

Through Christ's Great Commandment and Great Commission, we can more clearly understand the path God wants us to follow in our lives. Because we are members of a faith community, the church itself is an important part of our journey. Within the church, we develop strong relationships with others. Through our Christian family, we can more

effectively put into practice the love and devotion God desires. This is not an easy task, and it is a lifelong journey.

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Closing Hymn/Prayer

The following hymn can help us reflect on our session today. You may either read and pray or sing and pray the hymn.

Common Praise 484: In Christ there is no East or West

1. In Christ there is no east or west, in Christ no south or north, But
one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.
2. Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be;
Who serves my God in truth and love is surely kin to me.
3. In Christ now meet both east and west, in Christ meet south and
north; All faithful souls are joined in one throughout the whole wide
earth.

Pray the Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Shirley at 328-9913 or email stlukes@nb.aibn.com

This program “Discovery” was prepared by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and adapted for use by the Anglican Parish of Woodstock 2021. Please note that any reference to Episcopal Church (USA) is the same as the Anglican Church (Canada).