

WORDS TO LIVE BY

A FRESH LOOK AT THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

JAN 19, 2025

You were made for God.

The First Word (the first commandment) prepares us for the other nine by demanding our undivided allegiance to the God of our costly deliverance. You shall have no other gods before me. Without that pledge on our lips and in our hearts, all obedience to the following commands will be an exercise in empty moralism. The first word is a pledge of allegiance to the kingdom of God, here and now.

Read Exodus Exodus 20:3.

- If the Bible affirms the existence of only one God, what is the real concern in the first commandment (Ezekiel 14:3; 1 Corinthians 8:4-8)?
- If you had to identify a 'god' that occupies undue attention in your life today, what would it be? (see Mark 4:18)
- Although stated negatively, what is the positive meaning of the first commandment (Matthew 22:37-38)?
- How did a lack of appreciation and obedience to the first commandment harm those who first received it? (see Psalm 106:19-21). In what ways do you under-appreciate God and his work of salvation in your life today?
- How does the positive formulation of the first commandment given in the Old Testament point to the call of discipleship to Jesus? (see Deuteronomy 13:4; Luke 9:23-24)
- How might a greater daily commitment to the 'First Word' change your life?

Praying together

Holy Spirit, help me identify and renounce the 'gods' impeding my full devotion to God in my life today.