

# RULES, RULES, RULES

In my home, we have rules that everyone is expected to follow. For example, some of our rules are 'wash your hands before you eat', 'if you don't like dinner, make your own' and 'always use your manners'. I'm sure you have certain rules in your home that help everyone to get along and be healthy and safe. Can you think of anywhere else we have rules? Places like school, public pool, libraries. We also have lots of rules where we live. Things like speed limits, curfews and where to cross the street.

It seems like there are rules everywhere! Why do you think we have so many rules we have to follow? Rules help us get along nicely with one another and to stay healthy, safe, and happy.

Did you know God has rules too? The Bible is full of instructions on how to live our best, most loving lives. These instructions are often called laws. There are ten laws in particular that we are going to focus on. You may know them better as the Ten Commandments. In case you can't remember them all, let's go over them. (Also this is a great time to memorize them for some Kingdom Cash) But first, the story about where they came from:

It had been three months since the Israelites left Egypt, and they set up camp at the foot of Mt. Sinai. God called to Moses from the mountain, and Moses went up to Him. God reminded Moses of how He freed the Israelites from Pharaoh, and how the devastation in Egypt demonstrated His power and might. Then God told Moses that if the people obey His covenants, their nation would be great and holy in His sight. Then He told Moses to have the people cleanse themselves and be ready, because in three days the Lord will come down on the mountain. The people should not attempt to go up or even touch the mountain.

So on the third day, there was thunder and lightning with a loud trumpet blast. The mountain was covered with a thick cloud of smoke, because the Lord came onto it with fire. The whole mountain trembled and all the people were afraid. No one was allowed to go to the mountain except Moses. This was the time that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

Today I want to focus on the importance of following the rules. Do you remember why we follow rules? Because rules help us get along nicely with one another and to stay healthy, safe, and happy.

There is one very important thing to remember, though. We are not saved by following the Ten Commandments. Following the law is not how we get to heaven. The only way to live forever in heaven with Jesus is by trusting Him.

Isn't that GREAT news? I know I could never follow all the rules, just right, all the time, for my whole life. And thank God, I don't have to. All I have to do is believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins and now lives in my heart. Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us:

*“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.”*

So that brings up a question. Do we have to follow the Ten Commandments, or not? Well, to tell you the truth, this is something smart people have been discussing for a long, long time, and they don't always agree. Some people say yes, we must follow the law, and some people say no, we don't.

Here's what I think: yes, and no. As we learn from the Bible, the law cannot make us right with God. Only our faith in Jesus can do that. God won't love you more if you follow all the Ten Commandments, and He won't love you less if you don't. God's love for you will never, ever change. God will always, always, ALWAYS love you, no matter what you do.

So no, we don't have to follow the rules to be loved by God. But yes, following the Ten Commandments will help us live the life God has planned for us.

Following God's commands helps us to love Him better and love each other better.

A few weeks ago my son and I were looking up some of the weirdest laws in each state. Let me tell you, some are so unbelievable. Here were some of our favorites: Alabama - no silly string or confetti. Arkansas - you must pronounce the state name correctly. Connecticut - pickles can't be sold unless they bounce. Georgia - you have to eat fried chicken with your hands, no utensils. Kansas - no throwing snowballs. Oklahoma - no bear wrestling. Tennessee - you can't share your Netflix password.

Since we live in Illinois, I found a bunch of crazy ones for cities throughout our state. You can't drive a car without a steering wheel. No one can keep a smelly dog. You can only make soap with a soap making license. Girls are not allowed to throw snowballs. You can't burn bird feathers. Bees are not allowed to fly through the town. You can't ice skate during June and August. This last one was my son's favorite - you can't go fishing while sitting on a giraffe's neck. (I swear that they are all real)

Though some of these are a little crazy, they were all created with a purpose and were meant to keep people safe. We might look at the 10 Commandments and think some of them are a little crazy, but God created them all with love. He created them so that we had the guidelines we needed to show love to Him and to one another. If you're stealing from someone, you aren't showing them love, are you? And if you disrespect God by worshiping something else, that isn't showing God that you love Him.

The Ten Commandments aren't meant to help us get to heaven. The only way to get to live forever in heaven is to ask Jesus to live in your heart, and to do your best to follow Him. We show Jesus we love and follow Him by loving our neighbors, and the Ten Commandments show us some ways to do that. God's rules help us get along nicely with one another and to stay healthy, safe, and happy.



# The 10 Commandments



No Other Gods  
Before Me



No Idols Or  
Graven Images



Don't Take God's  
Name In Vain



Keep The  
Sabbath Holy



Honor Your Father  
And Mother



Thou Shalt  
Not Kill



Don't Commit  
Adultery



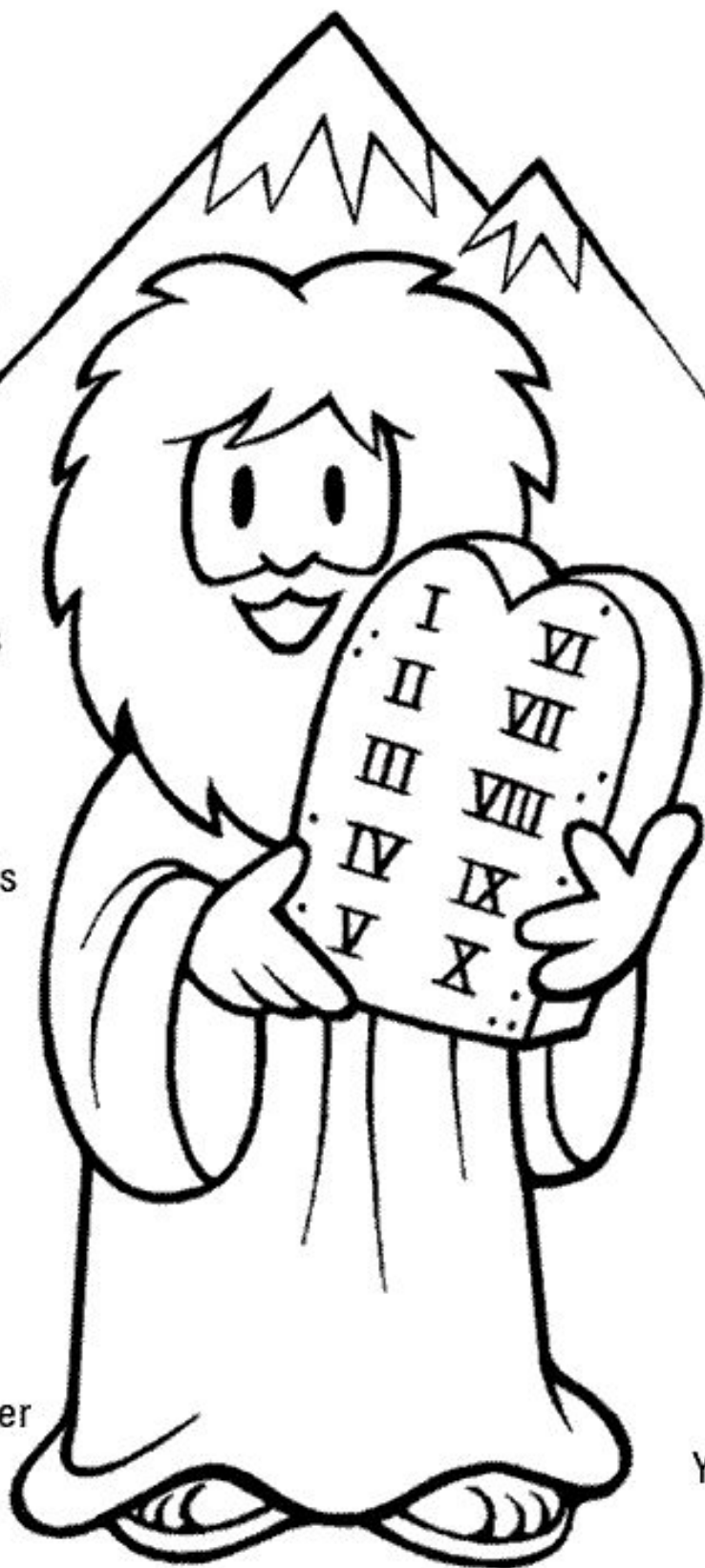
Do Not  
Steal



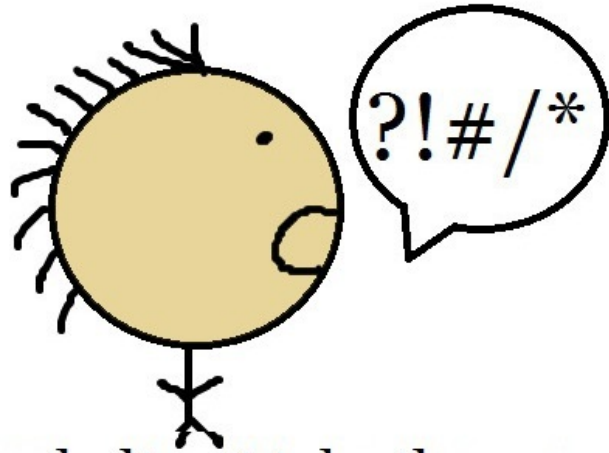
Do Not  
Lie



Do Not Covet  
Your Neighbor's  
Stuff



## Exodus 20:1-17



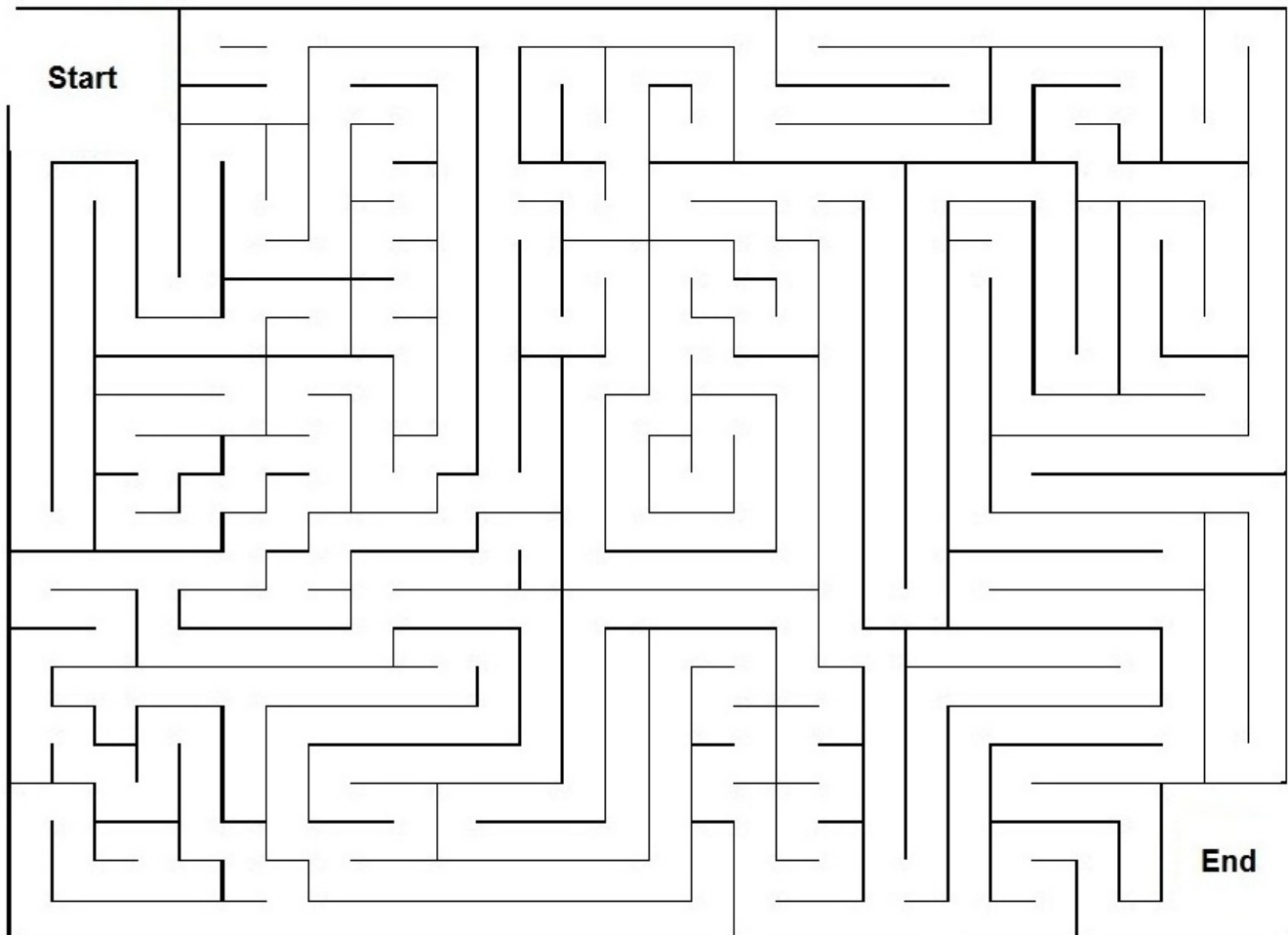
3.  
Thou shalt not take the name  
of the Lord your God in vain.

Church House Collection ©

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

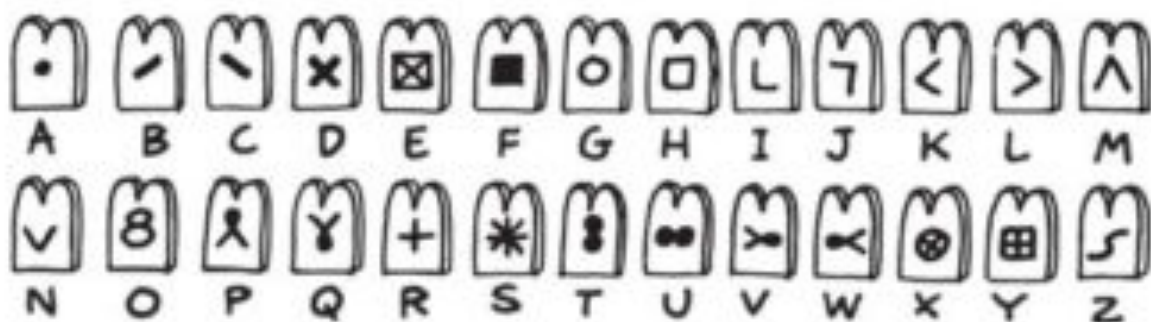
#3 Commandment of The  
Ten Commandments Maze

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the  
LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him  
guiltless that taketh his name in vain.



## The Ten Commandments

Use the code to find the missing word in each of the Ten Commandments. Read about the Commandments in Exodus 20:1–17.



- You shall have no other \_\_\_\_\_ before me. \_ \_ \_ \_  
O 8 X \*
- You shall not make or worship \_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
L X 8 > \*
- You shall not misuse God's \_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
V • ^ ☒
- Remember the \_\_\_\_\_ day by keeping it holy. \* • / / • : ☐
- \_\_\_\_\_ your father and mother. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
☐ 8 V 8 +
- You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
^ •• + X ☒ +
- You shall not commit \_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
• X •• > : ☒ + ☒
- You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
\* : ☒ • >
- You shall not give \_\_\_\_\_ testimony. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
■ • > \* ☒
- You shall not \_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
/ 8 > ☒ :

# THE TEN COMMANDMENTS WORD SEARCH



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

ADULTERY  
COMMANDMENTS  
COVENANT  
COVET  
DECALOGUE  
FATHER  
GOD  
GRAVEN IMAGE  
HONOUR  
IDOL

JEALOUS  
KILL  
LIE  
LIGHTNING  
LORD  
MOSES  
MOTHER  
MOUNTAIN  
MURDER  
NAME

NEIGHBOUR  
PARENTS  
SABBATH  
SEVENTH DAY  
SINAI  
STEAL  
TABLETS OF STONE  
TEN  
THUNDER  
WORSHIP