

Ready Answers Unit B: The Ten Commandments—Handles

Here are some suggested handles to help students recall the verses. You may adjust as desired or invent your own.

Introduction to the Ten Commandments

God Writes the Commandments—Exodus 31:18



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Exodus 20:1–2

To help remember Exodus chapter 20: Look at the mountain face, and imagine you see two large *x*'s (they are not quite there, but you can imagine they are), and think of two Roman numeral *X*'s to stand for 20: For verses 1 and 2, look at the cloud: There are two different colors, a dark cloud and a lighter grey cloud. Look at the darker cloud for verse 1, and look at the lighter cloud for verse 2.

And God spake

Look at the beginning of the lightening stem, and think of God starting to talk.

all these words, saying,

Look at all the branches of the lightening and think of them as being a lot of words.

I am the LORD thy God,

Look at the dark spot in the middle of the branches of lightening, and think of God being there in the dark of the cloud.

which have brought thee

Look at the picture of the pyramid, and drag your eyes from the left edge of the picture and up the side of the pyramid, thinking of God pulling the Children of Israel across the land and up the mountain.

out of the land of Egypt,

Now, make your eyes go down the other side of the pyramid, and jump out of the picture. Think of the pyramids, which are in the land of Egypt, for help with this phrase. Since you are leaving the picture of Egypt with your eyes, you are going “out of the land of Egypt.”

out of the house of bondage.

Now look at the picture of the slave getting punished.

The First Commandment

God Answers Elijah on Mt. Carmel—1 Kings 18



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Exodus 20:3

Look at the three larger men in the front bottom right.

Thou shalt have

Look at Elijah's open hands.

no other gods

Look in the back left, at the group of people by an altar to another god.

before me.

Look at the altar where the fire is, and think it is coming from before God.



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Exodus 20:4-5a

Look at the four whole men in the front left side of the picture: One is blowing a trumpet, one is playing a harp, and two are bowing down. This is for the verse 4 part. Now, look at the other person playing the trumpet. You can only see a part of the fifth person. That is for verse 5a.

Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image,

Look at the grooves in the image, at the top left of the picture.

or any likeness of any thing

Look at the bottom of the leg of the statue, it looks like a leg.

that is in heaven above,

Look at the back of the leg of the statue: There is a blue reflection of the sky, or heaven above

or that is in the earth beneath,

Look at a spot on the ground.

or that is in the water under the earth.

There is no spot of water to look at, but you can look at something blue near your spot on the ground: Some suggestions are the blue ties in the musicians, or the blue robe of Shadrach.

Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them,

Look at Meshach in the middle of the three men not bowing down. He has the red robe.

nor serve them:

Look at Abednego, the other man not bowing down. He is in the yellow robe.

5



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Exodus 20:5b-6

Look at the group of stars in the front right side of the picture. There are 5 major ones, and one smaller one. So, five-6 stars in the foreground.

for I the LORD thy God

Look at Jesus' forehead.

am a jealous God,

Look at the wrinkle/furrow in Jesus' brow, and think of that being a jealous look.

visiting the iniquity of the fathers

Now, think of Jesus going over to visit the moon. Find the dark crater on the top of the moon and look at it for where the fathers are.

upon the children

Now, look at the lower crater, and think of it as where the children are.

unto the third and fourth generation

Looking back toward Jesus, notice two sets of little stars. Look at the first set from the moon as the "third", and then the next set as the "fourth generation".

of them that hate me;

Look at the red spot in the sky that is close to Jesus' cheek. The red can remind you of "hate me"

And shewing mercy

Look at the tear on Jesus' face: "shewing mercy",

unto thousands of them that love me,

Look now at the reddish spot on earth that could be a red heart.

and keep my commandments.

Find a graying blob on the earth, that reminds you of the 10 Commandments symbol.

The Third Commandment

6



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Exodus 20:7

Find the shape of the digit seven made by Job's arm and torso.

Thou shalt not take

Look at Job's open hand. He is not taking anything in his hand right now.

the name of the LORD thy God

Look at the white beard. Even though this is not God, you can be reminded that God has white hair.

in vain;

Look at the stipes on his robe. They might be making him feel vain.

for the LORD

Look at Job's white robe, and think of white for the purity of the LORD.

will not hold him guiltless

Look at the middle man's black hair. (not guiltless, or not white, is black).

that taketh his name

Look at the mouth of the last friend. An interpretation of taking God's name in vain is swearing, or talking badly about God.

in vain.

Look at this last friend's hat. It might be making him feel vain.

7



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Exodus 20:8-10

There are about 8-10 people or creatures in this picture.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Look up at the sky above the main entrance door, The sky is to remind you of “sabbath day”, and the door to the church is for “to keep it holy”.

Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

Look at the grass in front of the picture, and think that you have 6 days to get all that cut and looking nice.

But the seventh day

Look at the red cross on the front of the church. Find the shape of a seven in the bottom half of the cross.

is the sabbath of the LORD thy God:

Now look at the rest of the cross.

in it thou shalt not do any work,

Now look at the already mowed lawn. The work is already done.

thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter,

Look at the family. Look at the mom and dad, then the son, then the daughter.

thy manservant, nor thy maidservant,

Look at the group of workers, except the clown:

nor thy cattle,

Now look at the cattle.

nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

Now look at the clown.

The Fourth Commandment (Continued)

8



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Exodus 20:11

Find September 11: Many people remember this was the day that the twin towers were destroyed in New York City in 2001.

For in six days

Scan your eyes over the first six days in the calendar.

the LORD made heaven and earth,

Look at the creation picture, and look at the sky and then the ground.

the sea, and all that in them is,

Now look at the sea, and the dolphins jumping.

and rested the seventh day:

Look up at the mountain by the sun.

wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day,

Now look at the seven-shaped creation scene. Look at God and His hand stretching out, giving a blessing on the sabbath day.

and hallowed it.

Now slide your eyes down the seven.

The Fifth Commandment

Rahab Rescues Her Parents—Joshua 2:13–21



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Exodus 20:12

Look at the boy in the bottom picture. Imagine he is about 12 years old.

Honour thy father and thy mother:

Look at Rahab's family escaping. She honored her parents by having them be saved.

that thy days may be long

Look at the long rope.

upon the land

Look at the man standing at the bottom of the rope. He is "upon the land".

which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Look at the boulders from the walls of Jericho being thrown down. God gave them the land by a great miracle.

The Sixth Commandment

David Spares Saul's Life—1 Samuel 26:9



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Exodus 20:13

Look at the spear, and imagine it is a "1". Look at the 3 main people in the foreground, and that is the "3", for the 13. You might also see a "3" in the folds of the curtain on the right side of the picture.

Thou shalt not kill.

Look at David's hand indicating that Saul should not be killed.

The Seventh Commandment

Joseph Escapes from Potipher's Wife—Genesis 39:12–13



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Exodus 20:14

In the pillars of the room, see a "1" and then a "4" for 14.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Look at Joseph's hand, telling Potiphar's wife he will not commit adultery with her.

The Eighth Commandment

Zacchaeus Promised to Repay What He Had Stolen—Luke 19:8



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Exodus 20:15

Look at one branch of the tree, for a "1". Then, for the "5", there are 5 men at the base of the tree in the foreground.

Thou shalt not steal.

Look at Zacchaeus, and remember that he promised to stop stealing, after talking with Jesus.

The Ninth Commandment

Judah Acquits Tamar by Acknowledging the Truth—Genesis 39:26

13



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Exodus 20:16

Look at the staff that Tamar is holding, for the “1”, and then slide your eyes down the staff, and see the circle of the turban of the man under the staff. This will be like a “6”, for you to remember “16”.

Thou shalt not bear false witness

Look at Judah, the man standing up in the picture. He was taking Tamar to court, accusing her of being a harlot, and wanting her to be burned.

against thy neighbour.

Look at Tamar, the woman holding the evidence that she was pregnant by Judah. He did acknowledge the evidence, and did not have her burned.

The Tenth Commandment

John the Baptist Doesn't Covet Jesus' Popularity—John 3:30

14



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Exodus 20:17

Look at the stone post on the left side of the first picture with Jesus for the “1”. Then, look at John the Baptist's arm and body, to form the shape of a “7”, for the “17”.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house,

Look at the stone arch in the first picture, to remind you of “thy neighbor's house.” Don't covet it.

thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife,

Look at the woman standing under the arch in the first picture. That's “thy neighbor's wife.” Don't covet her.

nor his manservant, nor his maidservant,

Look at the two people on the right side of the first picture. The boy has the bare shoulder, and the girl has the pink robe. They are your neighbor's servants.

nor his ox, nor his ass,

Look at the donkey upon which Jesus is riding. You will need to imagine an ox, but an ass is the Old English word for a donkey.

nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Look at the cloth that the boy is spreading out for Jesus. That belongs to your neighbor. Don't covet it.

15



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Exodus 20:18

Look at the staff, for the “1”. Then, there are two heads close together, with turbans on. They make an “8”, for the “18”.

And all the people saw the thunderings,

Look down the left side of the picture, where the people are looking, and stop at the yellow spot, for the “thunderings”.

and the lightnings,

Look at the lightning.

and the noise of the trumpet,

Look at one of the redish clouds, and imagine the “noise of the trumpets.” coming from God in the mountain.

and the mountain smoking:

Look at the big, black cloud for “the mountain smoking.”.

and when the people saw it,

Scan your eyes down the right side of the page, with those people looking at the mountain.

they removed, and stood afar off.

Keep moving your eyes down the line of the people on the right side, until you get entirely off the picture. Imagine the people are gone, and standing far away.

Israelites Ask Moses to Speak for God.

16



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Exodus 20:19

In the clouds at the top of the mountain, there is a lighteng bolt near a grayish cloud, that look similar to a “1” and a “9”, to make “19”.

And they said unto Moses,

Look for the people standing up, leaning near the other person standing up with both arms raised. The man with both arms raised is Moses, that the other people are talking to him.

Speak thou with us, and we will hear:

Scan your eyes over the crowd, and end up at the bottom of the picture, where we see the closest man. You can imagine you see his ear.

but let not God speak with us,

Now look at the top of the mountain, where God is speaking with them.

lest we die.

Look at the bare spot in front of the mountain, and imagine everyone is dead.