

# TCC Community Guide

For the week of September 10, 2023  
The Way: A Series in the 10 Commandments

*Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from September 10, 2023*

*As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the verse provided, slowly, perhaps a couple of times, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing" Ps. 23:1*

## Content Overview:

*Read aloud together, Psalm 1*

Pastor Adam taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- The blessed person is first described by what they do not do. They do not surround themselves with those who may cause them to adopt a perspective of life that has rejected the reality of a good, loving and involved God.
- They are then described by what they do, meditating on the law of God.
- Law is best understood as being about a humanity's flourishing and joy. It is also the voice of God. In the law we have both the voice and instruction of God.
- The blessed person lives by the law by meditating on it. Meditation in this sense is thinking upon God's instruction and presence often. Meditation moves us from cognitive knowledge to walking with God.
- Psalm 1 describes the blessed person to be like a transplanted tree. We are meant to want to be like this tree. The tree is transplanted, meaning it is intentionally positioned in the right conditions that will lead to its flourishing.
- Consider who we are following. Notice the drift in Ps. 1:1, walking, then standing, then sitting. We must guard ourselves against the allure to other ways.
- Recognize the context of Psalm 1. Most likely written during Israel's exile in Babylon. We often wait for the right conditions before engaging in our spiritual life, What if what we perceive to be difficult conditions are the ones necessary to bring about the transformation we ache for?
- Follow Jesus: Listen to Jesus' voice in the scripture and do what it says

## Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Psalm 1?
2. Pastor Adam asked you to consider who you are following. What types of messages, counter to the way of Jesus, do you find yourself hearing and feeling tempted to follow?
3. In what ways may you have to "transplant" yourself? Saying "no" to certain things in order to better follow Jesus.
4. How do you currently interact with the scriptures? Share about your habits, study strategy, the ways you apply the word, your joys and disappointments. Do you find reading the scriptures to be a practice in which you encounter the presence of God?
5. Is there anything from the message that challenges your current Scripture reading practice? Share with the community if you plan to follow TCC's Scripture Reading tool for this fall.

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? If this is your first meeting, ask what their prayer is for the group in the months ahead. Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



# TCC Community Guide

For the week of September 17, 2023  
The Way: A Series in the 10 Commandments

*Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from September 17, 2023*

*As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the verse provided, slowly, perhaps a couple of times, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. This week's reflective reading: "[The LORD] makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul." Ps. 23:2-3*

## **Content Overview:**

*Read aloud, Galatians 5:16-26*

Pastor Norb taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- The question was asked: Are we are trying to live the Christian life without the empowering of the Holy Spirit?
- The vision of TCC and the Christian life are captured in the great commandment (Matt. 22) and commission (Matt.28). We believe the outworking of the vision and mission is only possibly by the work of the Holy Spirit.
- The command to walk by the spirit can be understood as living every day in dependence upon God. It is unbroken fellowship and reliance on the Holy Spirit.
- Walking by the spirit requires that we resist sinful behaviour that we may naturally desire.
- Walking by the spirit allows an internal working of the spirit in us which bears fruits of Jesus-like qualities.
- Our flesh and the spirit are both calling us into a particular type of life. Whichever we feed the most, the flesh or the Spirit, will ultimately win. So we must feed the new spirit within us, and starve our flesh.
- As the fruit of the Spirit grows within us, we will begin looking more like Jesus. The goal of our discipleship to Jesus is to become more like Jesus, so we have to posture ourselves in such a way that the Holy Spirit will produce his fruit in us.
- We can posture ourselves towards the spirit's work though intentional engagement in spiritual practices. Pastor Norb highlighted the following practices:
  - Community: We walk with the spirit in the company of others. Intentionally seeking out one or two others who will help us in our battle against sin and our disciplines of walking by the spirit.
  - Scripture: We immerse ourselves in the word of God to better know the person and heart of Jesus. We seek to understand his teaching on reality, and how we are to best live our lives. Meditate on scripture. Sit under teaching.
  - Prayer: Be with Jesus constantly through prayer. Confess struggles and seek strength when battling fleshly desire
  - Fasting: Learning to say no to fleshly desire. Skipping meals or snacks as an expression of devotion to Jesus; invite Jesus into the hunger and pray for his presence to satisfy something deeper in you that food never could.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Galatians 5:16-26?
2. What resonates with you about TCC's vision, and mission statements and discipleship framework?
3. Share about someone you know who exhibits the fruits of the spirit. What of the fruit of the spirit do you see in them and what do you observe about their behaviours and practices that may allow for this fruit to grow?
4. Which of the fruits of the spirit do you desire to have more of in your life?
5. Which of the 4 practices suggested is compelling to you in this season? How may you go about integrating them?

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? If this is your first meeting, ask what their prayer is for the group in the months ahead. Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



# TCC Community Guide

For the week of September 24, 2023  
The Way: A Series in the 10 Commandments

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*As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the verse provided, slowly, perhaps a couple of times, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. This week's reflective reading: "[The LORD] guides me along the right paths for his name's sake." Ps. 23:2-3*

## Content Overview:

*Read aloud, Exodus 20:1-17. Pastor Adam taught on this passage, highlighting the following:*

- We all long to know the best way to experience the type of life we long for. Where do we go to find the way? While many different invitations come to us, to go this way or that, Jesus invites us to walk in His way.
- While we may protest to rules or restrictions, like the 10 commandments, we should acknowledge that no matter what way we walk, we are subject to a particular way of life with various rules and restrictions; everyone worships something, the only choice we get is what we worship. Adam gave examples of money/possessions, image, power, comfort/pleasure, or intellect. God's way frees us from the bondage imposed by other ways of life. God's way is a way of freedom. This is highlighted in Exodus 20:1-2.
- The first commandment sets up the rest, revealing that the way of freedom is a life of allegiance to God. This first commandment calls us to undivided allegiance. This call is repeated by Jesus in Matt. 6:24 and Matt. 22:34-40.
- The command to: have no other god before me, can be further understood by exploring how "before" may be understood, there are 4 options of translation: **1.** in front (to take his place as first loyalty) **2.** alongside (to be one among any), **3.** in my place (full replacement of Yahweh), or **4.** against (opposing me). All are possible.
- This allegiance and worship is given to the LORD who is unfathomably worthy and who loves us.
- As we walk in His way, committed to following Jesus, we enter into the life we were made for. We experience a deep relationship with God and find contentment, peace and resourcing for our engagement in our work and relationships.
- The first commandment invites us to worship, to examine our hearts for expressions of divided loyalty, and to intentionally engage in confession and repentance for our misplaced worship.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message?
2. How do you relate to the list of potential other gods? What do you observe about the worship of other gods in our culture and in your own life? Would you add any to this list? Which do you find yourself most tempted towards?
3. How might you cultivate undivided allegiance to Jesus in your life? In what ways have you experienced joy in this already? What keeps you back from greater devotion?
4. What is your preferred expression of worship? Music, getting in nature, reflecting on scripture, prayer, etc..

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? If this is your first meeting, ask what their prayer is for the group in the months ahead. Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



# TCC Community Guide

For the week of October 1, 2023  
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*As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the verse provided, slowly, perhaps a couple of times, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. This week's reflective reading: "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, a I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Ps. 23:4*

## Content Overview:

*Read aloud, Exodus 20:1-6. Pastor Adam taught on this passage, highlighting the following:*

- It isn't uncommon to feel a sense that "things" are not okay, and to ache for them to be okay again; to long for comfort and answers in the midst of difficult circumstances. But what do we do with that longing, do we take them to God or something else? To walk the way of Jesus, is to walk with a wholehearted trust in God's character and provision, bringing him our longing for hope and peace.
- One way to understand the 2nd commandment is: Do not make an idol to honour and revere in place of the LORD. Recognizing that Israel came from a polytheistic background, they would have felt a very real pull to create idols as a means of attempting to control uncontrollable circumstances. Idol worship was highly transactional (ex. Baal worship, the storm god and bringer of rain, Baal was recognized as sustaining the fertility of crops, animals, and people).
- While we may not construct images, we look to things other than God to experience salvation and deliverance, hope and peace.
- The second way to understand this commandment is: Do not make an image of the LORD, He is not to be confused among the idols. He is not to be attached to an image. To make an image of the LORD is to reduce him to something we think we can control.
- it is very easy to engage in conceptual idolatry, we do this when we craft an idea of God in our minds that is inconsistent with who he actually is.
- God is passionate (jealous or zealous) about our wholehearted trust in His character and provision (20:4-6). He punishes to bring correction as we learn to trust him. It is like the discipline of a parent punishing a child for stepping outside the bounds of what is good and safe. The text highlights that God's desire is to bring blessing on thousands and generations.
- We walk the way of wholehearted trust as we surrender control, and commit ourselves to knowing God for who He is.
- We cannot live into the joy, peace or comfort that God has for you in a state of hurry
- We need to read scriptures with humility, prayerfully seeking to know God for who he is.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and the 2nd commandment?
2. Read Exodus 32:1-4. What is relatable to you from this passage? How are you at times like Israel? In what ways do you experience yourself setting up idols in order to feel okay or attempt to control what feels uncontrollable?
3. Have you caught yourself in "conceptual idolatry" in the past? What was your journey in and out of it?
4. How might you battle busyness in your life in order to experience more of Jesus' provision?
5. If time allows, listen to Will Regan's "Let You Go" ([Apple](#), [Spotify](#), [Youtube](#)), what resonates with you from this Song? What aspect of this prayer needs to be your prayer in this season of life?

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? If this is your first meeting, ask what their prayer is for the group in the months ahead. Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



# TCC Community Guide

For the week of October 8, 2023

The Way: A Series in the 10 Commandments

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*As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the verse provided, slowly, perhaps a couple of times, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. This week's reflective reading: "5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows." Ps. 23:5*

## Content Overview:

*READ Luke 10:30-37, and Exodus 20:7, "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name." Pastor Quinn taught on these passages, highlighting the following:*

- The 3rd commandment is often interpreted as speaking to how we use our words, ie. don't swear using God's name or swear by His name. While this is an element of the 3rd commandment, it misses much of what the command is getting at.
- At its core, this commandment is about reverence and representation. It's about how we, as followers of Jesus, represent the name of the Jesus in our lives.
- As Christians, we carry the name of Jesus, we become Christ to the world around us (Christian literally means "little Christs" cf. Acts 11:26). We are his hands and feet in the world. As we interact with the world around us, we are actually invoking God's name. We are saying, "My life is His, so meet Christ through me."
- It's a profound honour to be associated with God, to be called His children, and to be entrusted with the task of representing Him.
- Misrepresenting God's name has consequences. Not only does it damage our personal relationship with Him, but it can also hinder others from coming to know God, and damages the witness of the church. When people see hypocrisy, inconsistency, or ungodliness in those who claim to bear God's name, it can create barriers to faith. On the flip side, when we bear God's name authentically, it has the power to transform lives.
- We can actively bear God's name well by sharing our testimony of God's work in our lives. Each of us has a unique story of God's work in our lives. These stories are powerful tools that God can use to touch hearts and change lives.
- We can actively bear God's name well by being intentional in our choices, recognizing that every choice we make has a ripple effect.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and the 3rd commandment?
2. What do you represent in your life? (Your parents, family, a company, an employer, a hobby/club or sport team) How does representing these influence your behaviours? What parallels do you see in your life as you seek to represent Jesus?
3. Have you had a situation in your life where being bold in bearing God's name had a positive or negative effect? Have you experienced hypocrisy negatively impact the witness of the church?
4. What is an area in your life where you can be a more intentional name bearer? What are the challenges to this? How might others pray for you to be bold as you live as Jesus has called you to live?
5. What practices do you have in place that help your life, attitudes and choices reflect the nature of Christ? What has worked and not worked?

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



# TCC Community Guide

For the week of October 15, 2023  
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*As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the verse provided, slowly, perhaps a couple of times, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. This week's reflective reading: "Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." Ps. 23:6*

## Content Overview:

READ Exodus 20:8-11. Pastor Adam taught on this commandment, highlighting the following:

- The word sabbath means: stop, cease, rest, complete rest. This word is attached to the 7th day of Israel's week. Israel is commanded to observe a 6-1 rhythm of work then rest, by remembering the Sabbath day.
- The Sabbath day is to be remembered by keeping it holy. This is done in two ways. 1) It is to be set apart to God with attention given to how the day honours the Lord and orients observers toward worship. 2) It is to be a day where no work is taking place. Work is not meant to go on all the time, it is to be let go of, and let go of regularly.
- The 4th commandment is distinct from the other 9 in that within the commandments we are told why the command should be kept. Pastor Adam highlighted 4 reasons:
  - 1) Exodus 20 teaches that we are to remember the sabbath to imitate God. The command invites us into God's given rhythm of 6-1.
  - 2) Deuteronomy 5:15 teaches that we are to keep the sabbath to remember we are free. Sabbath practice is an opportunity to celebrate deliverance. We often resist sabbath because of "inner Pharaohs", we act like slaves in our refusal to rest.
  - 3) Mark 2:27, we practice Sabbath because it is a gift given to us by God.
  - 4) Colossians 2:16, we practice Sabbath to experience the deepest rest found in Jesus. The fullness of Sabbath is found in Jesus, not a day. The practice of Sabbath points to Jesus and the rest we find in him.
- In our culture of busy, burn out and anxiety, with a rhythm of "hustle, hustle, hustle crash" we need the practice of Sabbath.
- The Sabbath has been given as a commandment and gift to usher us into our identity and enable us to experience the joy found in our relationship with God and to safeguard us from dehumanizing ourselves and others.
- Practicing Sabbath begins in the other 6 days of the week. It requires being intentional, planning accordingly
- A helpful framework to consider how to spend a Sabbath day is to think through the words: Stop, Rest, Delight, and Worship. Consider how your day will reflect each of these elements.
- It is helpful to begin your Sabbath day at Supper time, running 24 hours from supper to supper.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and the 4th commandment?
2. What were your thoughts about Sabbath prior to this message, what challenged your perspective, what was new to you?
3. Which of the 4 "whys" of Sabbath resonate with you the most?
4. What is your greatest resistance to practicing Sabbath? Is it possibly reflective of an inner pharaoh?
5. Does practicing Sabbath feel possible for you and your family? What are the obstacles? Brainstorm with friends about how you may begin stepping into the practice of Sabbath. How might obstacles be overcome together?

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



# TCC Community Guide

For the week of October 22, 2023  
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*As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the verse provided, slowly, perhaps a couple of times, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. This week's reflective reading: Psalm 103:1-5*

## Content Overview:

*READ Exodus 20:12 and 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Pastor Norb taught on this commandment, highlighting the following:*

- The 5th commandment marks a turning point. It's quite common to group the 10 commandments into two categories, the first 4 have to do with our relationship with God Himself, the last 6 have to do with our relationship with others. However, as we make this distinction, we need to keep in mind that how we treat others is in fact an expression of worship and loyalty to God.
- Parents are those that nurtured and equipped you for life. Those that had the greatest input in your life.
- To honour is to state one to be deserving of respect, attention (love), and obedience. The Hebrew word for honour is kabad, which means "to give weight to, glorify, esteem." Our parents, God says, are to be respected. A lot. A tonne.
- Scripture supplies several reasons why we should honour our parents:
  - 1) To experience long life (Ex. 20:12)
  - 2) That life may go well (Deut. 5:16)
  - 3) Because it is right to do so (Eph. 6:1)
  - 4) Because it pleases the Lord (Col. 3:20)
- Additionally, honour your mother and Father because one day, you'll want your children to do the same to you.
- How do we honour our parents? Love them, seek to understand them, accept them, respect them, and forgive them.
- Forgiveness may be the hardest of all. Every parent has failed their children in some way. We are all broken in some way. We sin. And sin hurts others. God extends his love and grace and mercy to us, and we in turn extend it to others.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and the 5th commandment?
2. How would you describe your childhood, family and relationship with your parents? Did you have non-related individuals who were like a parent to you in addition to or in place of your biological parents?
3. In what ways would you want to be honoured as a parent? Have you given that level of honour to your own parents, how may you do so now?
4. In what ways is how you relate to, speak of, respect and honour your parents a form of worship to God?
5. What connection do you see between 2 Timothy 3:1-5's description of the last days and our present day today? How do you see disobedience to parents as a source of difficulty (v1)?
6. What has been your experience in having to forgive your parents? Consider looking at the **"Forgiveness Prayer"** Resource on TCC's group resource page.

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



# TCC Community Guide

For the week of October 29, 2023  
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*Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from October 29, 2023*

*As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the verse provided, slowly, perhaps a couple of times, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. This week's reflective reading: Psalm 103:6-14*

## Content Overview:

*READ Exodus 20:13 and Matthew 5:21-26. Jenna taught on this commandment, highlighting the following:*

- The 6th commandment is taught on by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, we rightly turn to his teaching to best understand it.
- The 6th commandment echos the message of Genesis 1:26, that human life is created by God, cherished by God, and belongs to God. When we pursue reconciliation over retaliation, we bring honour to God. Reconciliation honours God.
- The sixth commandment was written to protect you because your life is precious to God.
- Jesus' teaching on the sixth commandment equates anger with murder. Our attitudes about others matter to God. Jesus shifts from tangible outcomes that are measurable by human standards to intangible emotions that are only known by God. Sometimes we think that anger is just a problem between people, but Jesus reminds us that it's also a problem between us and God.
- Scripture gives examples of proper ways to deal with anger (Psalm 3, 35, 55, 139). We rightly bring our anger before the Lord.
- Jesus calls us to resist anger and murder by pursuing reconciliation with the person we've been offended by.
- Jesus uses v. 25-26 to remind his audience that reconciliation with others has worldly consequences as well as spiritual.
- Jesus' explanation of the sixth commandment doesn't allow us to put aside the difficulties in our complex relationships. We are called by Jesus to, as much as it depends on us, to be reconciled.
- Jenna emphasized the concept of "THOLUCK", the moment of passing an animal for sacrifice in worship. In that moment Jesus calls his listeners to stop and pursue reconciliation. This implies not only the difficulty and inconvenience of reconciliation, but highlights the reality of how pursuing reconciliation is required for right worship. Jesus is teaching that you should make good with your sister or brother before you make good with God.
- Reconciliation comes through the intervention of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. Reconciliation comes from doing the opposite of what our self-seeking human nature wants us to do. It comes from choosing to admit when we are wrong, asking for forgiveness, and building healthy boundaries.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and the 6th commandment and Jesus' teaching on it?
2. In what ways does the reality that people are created, "in the image of God" speak to the 6th commandment, how does it impact the way we perceive, think of, and respond to others?
3. What typically keeps you from pursuing reconciliation with others? How does this message, and Jesus' teaching on the 6th commandment challenge your resistance?
4. In what ways have you experienced conflict in a relationship bring difficulty to your relationship with God?
5. In what ways have you pursued and experienced reconciliation in relationships? Have you ever experienced reconciliation as a form of worship?

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.





# TCC Community Guide

For the week of November 5, 2023  
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## Content Overview:

*READ Exodus 20:14 & Matthew 5:27-30. Pastor Norb taught the following on these passages:*

- Marriage and sex are God's idea. God has purposed each and knows their power. God's intention from the very beginning is that marriage would be a covenant relationship between one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others. Two becoming one. Marriage is the creation of an inseparable union between husband and wife.
- Marriage can be described as a loving, lasting, binding, solemn, exclusive covenant of companionship. And that is why FAITHFULNESS is absolutely vital in marriage, and essential to its well-being. This is why vows are important.
- Adultery is when two people, not married to each other, engage in sexual activity. In doing so, they are being unfaithful to the "one flesh" covenant they have made with their spouses. Jesus intensified the definition of adultery in Matthew 5:27-28.
- Jesus teaches it is no longer just the physical act, but the line is crossed whenever a one lusts for another. Lust is a desire to have, to possess, to take for yourself, the desire to use the other for one's own self-gratification.
- The bottom line of the 7th commandment and Jesus' teaching on it is simple: "don't do it!" Jesus says, it starts in the heart...it's not just the act itself, but the unrestrained desire and thoughts of having that which isn't ours. This is the way of faithfulness.
- **How do we live the way of faithfulness?**
  - 1) Ruthlessly avoid all sexual immorality.
  - 2) Practice the Presence of God: If we had the conviction that Jesus is always present, we'd run, flee, remove, avoid temptation.
  - 3) Live with Biblical Convictions: Be cautious of how subtly we can adopt the culture's view of sex.
  - 4) Walk in the Company of others: When we isolate, we are vulnerable. Find a group to be honest about your temptations.
  - 5) Live a life of confession and repentance, continually working to bring our lives into alignment with God's way.
- There is grace and mercy and forgiveness of sin. Adultery, sexual sin, is not unforgivable. But we need to be like the Prodigal Son, who acknowledged that his life was a mess because he had chosen to live life his own way.

**Discussion Questions:** *These questions are written to be used in a group setting. In light of the topic, allow the discussion to address sin more broadly in addition to lust. You may consider Paul's list from Colossians 3:5-10*

1. What has resonated with you most from this message, the 7th commandment, and Jesus' teaching?
2. How do you experience cultural messaging about how one should or should not enjoy life, inviting you to walk ways other than the ways of Jesus?
3. In what ways have you applied Jesus' teaching to do whatever it takes to avoid sin in your own life?
4. What hinders you from addressing areas of sin in the context of community?
5. What practices do you use to foster health in your relationships (marriage, friendship, parenting, siblings, etc.) as a way to guard these from being damaged by sinful behaviours?

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



# TCC Community Guide

For the week of November 12, 2023  
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## Content Overview:

READ **Exodus 20:15** & **Ephesians 4:28**. Pastor Adam taught on the eighth commandment, highlighting the following:

- This commandment implies that there is a universal right to property, and that property should be protected
- The Hebrew word used speaks to more than the simplicity of taking another's property, but to doing so in a hidden, subtle, crafty taking or keeping what is not our own.
- **Exodus 22-23** reveals the heart behind the 8th commandment is the protection of other's economic stability. Passivity towards one's neighbour's loss is also prohibited, teaching that causing loss of property can be both active and passive. Tucked into this commandment is a call to positive action towards your neighbour's economic good and stability.
- Jesus accuses some of making the temple a den of robbers (thieves) (**Mark 11:15-17**). These were not technically (in a legal sense) stealing, but rather leveraging their neighbours difficulty to make a profit. From Jesus' perspective, stealing can take place within legally acceptable limits.
- God's people are called to care about one another's well-being. **Ephesians 4:28** calls the church to be a community in which no one would need to steal.
- **Malachi 3:8-10** reveals that from God's perspective, stealing can both taking and keeping. We are called to be generous.
- Where theft is an attempt to fast-track our way towards happiness or security, the way of Jesus calls us abandon our self-reliance and the sin it leads to and instead depend on God and our community. The way of Jesus is a way of dependency.
- We keep the eighth commandment as we surrender to God's love and care, stop stealing, and seek the welfare of others through practices of generosity and simplicity.
- We must live believing that the most satisfying abundance we could ask for is available to us in Christ.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message, the 8th commandment, and the passages highlighted in this message?
2. Have you experienced God's miraculous care and provision in your life? In what ways do you practice dependency on God?
3. What keeps you from seeking help from others if you're in need?
4. In what ways do you see and/or could you see the church living out Ephesians 4:28? Read also, Acts 2:45.

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



# TCC Community Guide

For the week of November 19, 2023  
The Way: A Series in the 10 Commandments

*Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from November 19, 2023*

*As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the verse provided, slowly, perhaps a couple of times, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. This week's reflective reading: Colossians 1:15-16*

## Content Overview:

READ **Exodus 20:16** & **Ephesians 4:25**. Pastor Norb taught on the ninth commandment, highlighting the following:

- Trust is a foundational requirement in a free and just society. False witness, or untruth, destroys relationships and community. What the ninth commandment presents as an alternative to untruth, is a way of truthfulness.
- The ninth commandment was given in the context of a society where nearly all crimes carried the death sentence, and so the role of witnesses was essential to ensure proper justice. Testimony had to be confirmed by 2 or 3 witnesses. (Deut. 19:15). If a witness proved to be false, that is, they lied, the witness was to receive the punishment the person on trial would have received (19:19). The witness was the executioner (17:7). So then, and now, it is absolutely critical to tell the truth.
- This commandment protects relationships, builds trust, and reflects the character of God.
- Norb shared the Heidelberg Catechism (1563)

Q: How do you keep the 9th commandment? A: "That I never give false testimony against anyone, twist no one's words, not gossip or slander, nor join in condemning anyone rashly or without a hearing. Rather, in court and everywhere else, I should avoid lying and deceit of every kind; these are the very devices the devil uses, and they would call down on me God's intense wrath. I should love the truth, speak it candidly, and openly acknowledge it. And I should do what I can to guard and advance my neighbor's good name."

- Some of the reasons we may break the ninth commandment are: malice, pride, selfishness, jealousy, insecurity, revenge, fear, or embarrassment.
- We keep the ninth commandment by:
  - Watching our tongues (James 1:26, and 3:5).
  - Refusing to engage in inappropriate conversations.
  - Seriously considering the "why" behind our deceit.
  - Practice speaking truth in love.
  - Accept, and extend, God's forgiveness.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message, the 9th commandment, and the passages highlighted in this message?
2. In what ways have you witnessed or experienced the harm of lying (deceit) and the healing/restorative work of truth telling?
3. What of the Heidelberg Catechism stood out to you or challenged you?
4. Which of the reasons for lying Pastor Norb gave, resonated with you the most?

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



# TCC Community Guide

For the week of November 26, 2023  
The Way: A Series in the 10 Commandments

*Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from November 26, 2023*

*As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the verse provided, slowly, perhaps a couple of times, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. This week's reflective reading: Colossians 1:17-20*

## Content Overview:

READ **Exodus 20:17** Pastor Adam taught on the Tenth commandment, highlighting the following:

- God's best is that we would keep ourselves from covetousness. To covet is to desire and try to acquire, crave or find pleasure in. Coveting is looking beyond what we have and yearning for more. The tenth commandment specifically tells us not to covet our neighbour's possessions, relationships, circumstances... or anything of our neighbour's.
- Coveting is misplaced desire. **Gen. 3:6**. Misplaced desire fuels sin. Sin: seeking to meet a legitimate desire in an illegitimate way
- Coveting affects all of us, the poor and the rich. The kings of Israel struggle with coveting. David (2 Sam 11), and Ahab (1 Ki. 21).
- Coveting is based on the illusion that having more will fulfill us. **Luke 12:15**.
- Covetousness is an expression of worship to other gods. **Col. 3:5**.
- Covetousness harms our relationships. **James 4:1-2**.
- Covetousness harms us personally. **Mark 10:17-24**. In the name of riches, security, or having more, we keep ourselves out of the life Jesus has for us
- Darrell Johnson, in his book, *That You Shall Live*, writes, "Break the first commandment and we always and automatically break the tenth. We become souls running on empty, desiring anything and everything that can fill the hole in the soul."
- The way of Jesus is a way of contentment. We need to:
  - Look to Jesus. Paul's secret to contentment: I can be content because I have Jesus (**Phil 4:10-13**).
  - Practice gratitude, thanksgiving and worship
    - Consider how the Psalmist is oriented away from covetousness in **Psalm 73**
  - Cultivate an affection for Jesus that is greater than our longing for other things. We can say no to covetousness because what we have in Jesus is better.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message, the 10th commandment, and the passages highlighted in this message?
2. How do you see the tenth commandment relating to the other 9?
3. What are you most likely to covet: stuff, relationships, or circumstances? What person is most likely to be the object of your envy?
4. In what ways have you experienced contentment in Jesus?
5. In what ways do you (or could you) cultivate an affection for Jesus that is greater than our longing for other things?

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



# TCC Community Guide

For the week of December 3, 2023  
The Way: A Series in the 10 Commandments

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*As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the verse provided, slowly, perhaps a couple of times, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. This week's reflective reading: Colossians 1:17-20*

## Content Overview:

READ **Matthew 1:18-25**. Pastor Norb taught on the theme of Hope, teaching the following:

- This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent. Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival". It's a four week season of preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Advent is about waiting.
- We live in the space between Christ's first and second coming, the now and not yet. We know deep down that things are not right in this world, and we long for things to be made right. This longing is a large part of what Advent is about.
- We begin the Advent season reflect on hope. Hope is, "The expectation of coming good based on the person and promises of God."
- The object of our hope is Jesus (**Hebrews 6:19**). He is our anchor of hope. When outside elements come against us, hope in Jesus prevents us from moving in a direction we do not want to go. When we put our faith and trust in Jesus, when Jesus is the object of our hope, it secures us in place.
- **1 Timothy 6:17-19** gives an example of misplaced hope. When we face difficulty in life, what we turn towards for comfort or certainty may reveal what we are hoping in.
- We learn about hope in Joseph's response to Mary's pregnancy.
  - He Submits to God's will. Trusting in God's providence and plan.
  - He responds to God's voice. Joseph's confusion caused him to make plans, but God's voice intervened and Joseph responded to that voice, setting aside his own plans.
  - He is willing to bear the cost of obedience. Because of his hope in God, Joseph was able to endure painful waiting.
- No matter the difficulty you are facing in this season of life. God is with you, you can hope in him and in his goodness.

## Discussion Questions:

1. How was the month of December observed in your home? Was Advent observed?
2. What has resonated with you most from this message on Hope?
3. How would you distinguish between wishing and hoping?
4. How does your response to difficulties, anxiety, or world events reflect where your hope is placed?
5. How might you re-anchor your hope to Jesus?

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



# TCC Community Guide

For the week of December 3, 2023  
The Way: A Series in the 10 Commandments

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## Content Overview:

READ **Matthew 1:18-25**. Pastor Norb taught on the theme of Hope, teaching the following:

- This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent. Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "coming" or "arrival". It's a four week season of preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Advent is about waiting.
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## Discussion Questions:

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**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



# TCC Community Guide

For the week of December 10, 2023  
The Way: A Series in the 10 Commandments

*Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from December 10, 2023*

*As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the verse provided, slowly, perhaps a couple of times, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. This week's reflective reading: Isaiah 9:2-7*

## Content Overview:

READ **Luke 2:8-11** and **John 15:9-11**. Pastor Steve taught on the theme of Joy, teaching the following:

- The Christmas season invokes joy in us as we are encouraged to celebrate, take time off work, be with family and enjoy various traditions. Joy is rightly invoked at Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus. He came in order that we may have complete joy.
- Steve provided this definition of Joy: "True joy is a limitless, life-defining, transformative reservoir waiting to be tapped into. It requires the utmost surrender and, like love, is a choice to be made. Joy is not simply a feeling that happens. In its truest expression, joy transforms difficult times into blessings and turns heartache into gratitude. Joy brings meaning to life. It brings life to life."
- **John 15:9-11** teaches that joy is fruitfulness of being in the vine; evidence of God's love and presence in us
- As Jesus kept God's commands, he remained in his love and experienced true joy found in the fruit of that obedience. This is the same thing he now urges his followers to do.
- We experience the joy Jesus came to bring as we:
  - Practice obedience: If we live as Jesus commands, His joy will be in us and our joy will be complete. If we seek to glorify God by obeying Jesus' commands –by loving God and loving others– we can experience true joy, even if our physical circumstances are not joyful.
  - Serve others and bring glory to God. True joy comes when we do things that sometimes seem like the opposite of joy-inducing activities; when we experience and participate in the pain, the panic, and the poverty in the lives of others.
  - Spend time with God. We need to love God first, give him priority even in the busyness of the season.
  - Look beyond our immediate surroundings: Don't use the busyness of the Christmas season to ignore needs around you.
- Jesus coming was God's incredible love for us. When we choose to love Him and follow Him in obedience, we will experience a joy that is full until He comes again

## Discussion Questions:

1. What memories from past Christmas celebrations spark joy in you?
2. What has resonated with you most from this message on joy?
3. Describe the joy you have in Christ in your own words.
4. In what ways do you believe obedience to God and serving others will lead to deeper joy in your life?
5. How have you experienced joy in serving others?

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



# TCC Community Guide

For the week of December 17, 2023  
The Way: A Series in the 10 Commandments

*Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from December 17, 2023*

*As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the verse provided, slowly, perhaps a couple of times, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. This week's reflective reading: Luke 2:8-14*

## Content Overview:

*Pastor Adam taught on the theme of Peace, teaching the following:*

- When we look around the world, or reflect on our own struggles, it can be difficult to see or feel peace
- Biblically, Peace is not just the end of difficulty, or conflict but the restoration of wholeness. The OT picture of the word shalom is of a wall being completed. In Gen 1-3 we read about the wholeness and peace of creation which is lost due to sin. At the fall, relationship was broken between God and humanity, between individuals, between humanity and creation, and within the self. The promises of peace in Scripture is to see these relationships restored. **Leviticus 26:5** (promise for peace) | **Isaiah 55:12-13** (hoping for peace) | **Revelation 21:3** (future picture of peace)
- Jesus brings peace, but it is different than expected. Jesus could have put an end to the conflict, but it wouldn't have been enough. The peace that is required for a restoration of Eden-like type of existence requires restoration of all that is broken so that people are not inclined to wage war in order to experience that which they feel is lacking in their lives.
- **Romans 5:1** speaks to the peace we have received through Christ by faith, in our relationship with God.
- The peace on earth that came that first Christmas Day is a peace that brings peace to the deepest parts of our person while anticipating the restoration of all things to a state of wholeness
- We walk the way of peace as we come to our prince of Peace (**Luke 1:79**)
- We walk the way of peace as we advocate for peace as "Peace-wagers". As we interact with difficult circumstances we can do so with the peace of Christ (**John 14:27**) and bring that peace into those situations.

## Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message on Peace?
2. Describe the peace you have in Christ in your own words.
3. In what ways might you practice receiving peace from Christ? What practices do you have in place, or what practices would you like to grow in?
4. What do you think it looks like to bring peace into difficult situations?

**End in Prayer:** Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.

