



DEUTERONOMY

A CHALLENGE TO A NEW GENERATION

GOD'S CHARACTER REFLECTED

BIG IDEA: The character of God is reflected in the Ten Commandments He gave us to obey.

DATE: Sunday, June 14, 2026

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 5:6-21

OPENING QUESTION

How many of you have ever been to Mount Rushmore? If you have, describe the monument. Can a picture do it justice?

SETTING THE STAGE

The Israelites were already familiar with the Ten Commandments, for they had received them from God at Mount Sinai 40 years earlier (Ex. 20:1-17). He had delivered them to the Israelites face to face from the fire on the mountain, though the people had been afraid of the fire. All the adults who had survived the 40 years in the desert would have remembered that fiery event. But the mere fact that Israel had received the law was not enough to transform and stabilize their society; for the nation to be strong, each and every Israelite would have to know the law and obey it. Moses understood this, and so he summoned all Israel to himself in a solemn assembly and proclaimed the Ten Commandments to them, ordering every citizen to learn and follow them carefully.

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 5:6-21 (CSB)

⁶I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery.

⁷Do not have other gods besides me.

⁸Do not make an idol for yourself in the shape of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters under the earth. ⁹Do not bow in worship to them, and do not serve them, because I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, bringing the consequences of the fathers' iniquity on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate me, ¹⁰but showing faithful love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commands.

¹¹Do not misuse the name of the LORD your God, because the LORD will not leave anyone unpunished who misuses his name.

¹²Be careful to remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy as the LORD your God has commanded you. ¹³You are to labor six days and do all your work, ¹⁴but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. Do not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female slave, your ox or donkey, any of your livestock, or the resident alien who lives within your city gates, so that your male and female slaves may rest as you do. ¹⁵Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt,

and the LORD your God brought you out of there with a strong hand and an outstretched arm. That is why the LORD your God has commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

¹⁶ Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and so that you may prosper in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁷ Do not murder.

¹⁸ Do not commit adultery.

¹⁹ Do not steal.

²⁰ Do not give dishonest testimony against your neighbor.

²¹ Do not covet your neighbor's wife or desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

DISCUSSION

RESPECT FOR GOD

READ: Deuteronomy 5:6-18

- What do these verses tell you about God? What do you learn about God's nature?
- Why are idols so appealing? Can an idol capture the wonder, majesty, and eternal nature of God?

A symbol reminds us of God, but an idol or an image may be used to represent God. When we cross over the line to something that represents God, instead of just reminding of us of God, we've entered into the sin of idolatry.

- Why is our culture so casual about the name of God? What can you do to avoid using God's name in an empty, meaningless way? How does respecting God's name reflect His character?
- How do you observe the Sabbath or guard time to refresh your soul? How does God's command of Sabbath reflect His character?

RESPECT FOR OTHERS: Deuteronomy 5:19-21 Team Assignments

- **TEAM ONE:** Read Deuteronomy 5:19 and "Respect the Property of Others" handout. Answer the questions and discuss why stealing does not reflect trust in God's provision for us.
- **TEAM TWO:** Read Deuteronomy 5:20 and "Honesty Is the Only Policy" handout. Answer the questions and explain how lying fails to reflect God's truthfulness.
- **TEAM THREE:** Read Deuteronomy 5:21 and "Learn to Live with Contentment" handout. Answer the questions and discuss how covetousness fails to reflect contentment in God, and how it shows dissatisfaction with what He provides.

RESPONSE

When you truly love God, you won't violate the first four commandments. Likewise, when you sincerely love your neighbor, you won't have to worry about keeping the last six commandments. *Will you ask God to give you the strength to love Him more dearly and to give you a deeper love for your neighbor so that you can truly reflect His character?*