

Saturday

Reread Exodus 20:1–6. Summarize the first two commands. Why do you think God started the Ten Commandments with these — in other words, why not start out more practically, with instructions about marriage or children or lying or stealing, all of which come later?

How does this order help in keeping all the other commands?

How does this order put everything else in perspective?

Please pray for the services this weekend, and for the beach baptisms Sunday afternoon. And pray for the “God Is” series, starting the first weekend of October.



TWIN LAKES
CHURCH
www.tlc.org

PREPARE TO MEET YOUR MAKER

WEEK 1

Accept No Substitutes

SEPTEMBER 3 & 4, 2011 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

You **must not have any other god** but me. **You must not make for yourself an idol** of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. **You must not bow down to them or worship them.**
Exodus 20:3–5a NLT

“Left to ourselves we tend immediately to reduce God to manageable terms.”
A.W. Tozer

Three questions to ask myself:

1. _____ ?

You must not make for yourself an idol **of any kind**... *Exodus 20:4a*

Common Idols

“Will we let God be as he is, majestic and holy, vast and wondrous, or will we always be trying to whittle him down to the size of our small minds, confining him within the boundaries we are comfortable with... But then we are not dealing with the God of creation and the Christ of the cross, but with a dime-store reproduction of something made in our image.” Eugene Peterson

Why not have idols? Idols will...

- _____ me

Those who make idols are disillusioned, because the gods they make are false and lifeless. *Jeremiah 10:14b GN*

- _____ me

When you didn't know God, you were slaves to things which are really not gods at all. *Galatians 4:8 GN*

- _____ me

Those who make idols end up like them. So does everyone who trusts them.
Psalms 115:8 GN

2. _____ ?
You must not bow down to them or worship them. . . *Exodus 20:5a*

3. _____ ?
You must not have any other god but me. *Exodus 20:3*
Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.
Proverbs 3:5–6 NIV

The promise: _____ !

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being. . .
Hebrews 1:3 NIV

**GOD
IS**

In one month, TLC embarks on a 50-day exploration of God's attributes in our upcoming series, "God Is".

- Book with 50 daily readings
- 7 small group sessions
- Message series

Get your book in two weeks, and sign up online for a small group now! Series starts the weekend of October 1 & 2.

Daily Meditations

Monday

Read Matthew 22:36–38. Jesus taught that all of the law hinged on this first commandment to love only God. Why is this so? How does putting God first keep everything else in line?

How would love for God direct me away from adultery or lying or murder or any other destructive act?

Ask God to help you keep Him central in your thoughts and actions today! Please pray for the "God Is" series starting in a month, that God would use it to recalibrate many hearts to worship Him in spirit and in truth!

Tuesday

Read Deuteronomy 4:15–25. What sorts of "other gods" and "idols" do people serve in our culture?

What about in your life? Take time for an honest self-inventory: What have you been serving or worshipping lately (or have been tempted to) besides God?

Ask the Lord to help restore your focus on Him today! Take time to worship Him.

Wednesday

Read Exodus 20:4–5. Does it bother you that God refers to Himself as "jealous"? Are there ever good reasons to be possessive?

Read Isaiah 62:5 and Hosea 2:16. How does this help explain what is meant by God's "jealousy"?

How can you phrase in your own words?

Thank the Lord that He is not distant and uncaring, but loves you deeply!

Thursday

Read Jeremiah 10:1–16. What are some of the reasons idols are foolish, according to these verses?

The command against idolatry is by far the most frequently repeated command in the Bible. Why do you think this is so?

Why do you think idolatry — either of actual images of a god, or of things that take priority over God — is so persistent in human culture?

Today thank God that He does not fit into the boxes we make! Yield yourself to His will in your life.

Friday

Read Exodus 20:6, Matthew 6:33–34, Proverbs 3:5–6, and Proverbs 37:4. What are the benefits of putting God first, according to these verses?

What benefits have you experienced when you put God first?

Thank Him for His blessings today!



You must not have any other god but me.
Exodus 20:3 NIV