

Read Repeatedly

TODAY'S PASSAGE:

Exodus 20:1-21

So, you think you know the Ten Commandments? Let's spend a week as you read them repeatedly each day, and perhaps you'll gather some new insights into this familiar passage.

Day 1. Before reading the passage, see how many of the Ten Commandments you can recall from memory. (The national average is 3 to 4.) Then read the passage to see how well you did. Spend some time thinking about what you've already been taught about this passage from books, sermons, etc.

Day 2. Read the book of Exodus from the beginning until you get to Exodus 20. What is the significance of the Ten Commandments in light of the events just preceding them?

Day 3. Put yourself in the place of an Israelite standing at the foot of Mt Sinai after being led out of slavery in Egypt. You would be hearing these commandments for the first time. How do you think you would feel? Why?

Day 4. Read Exodus 20:1-21 in one or more alternative Bible translations. What differences do you notice as you do?

Day 5. If possible, find a recording of the Ten Commandments. In lieu of that, read Exodus 20:1-21 aloud. Remember this is the way the Israelites first learned of these instructions. Do you prefer a verbal or written presentation of Scripture? Why?

Day 6. Read Exodus 20:1-21 again. This time try to determine if the order of the commandments is significant. Are they prioritized? Can you determine groupings among the existing list? If you mixed them up, would they be just as effective?

Day 7. Read Exodus 20:1-21 for a final time. But don't move on until you discover three things you haven't yet noticed.