



## Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - August 28, 2011

### Sermon

Lessons in Stained Glass:  
*"The First Commandment"*  
Exodus 20:1-3  
by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember  
about this sermon...

Monday 8/29/11  
Exodus 19:1-6

God wanted to provide the House of Israel with some instructions and rules. Moses was the recipient of God's word to the people. "House Rules" are helpful to maintain order in any group of people. Imagine, for a minute, what would happen if there were no rules in your house. Or think about how dangerous driving would be if there were no driving rules on the road! Rules are imperative and helpful. What are the rules of your house?

Tuesday 8/30/11  
Exodus 19:7-12

The people of Israel were required to prepare for the reception of God's rules and commandments. They had to wash their clothes and be in a period of preparation. Then God had Moses put limits on the people--they could not go up to the mountain or even touch the edge of it. If they did, God said they would die. Why are limits like these important? What function do limits have for us? Do you limit others in any way? How do you feel about limits that are placed on you?

Wednesday 8/31/11  
Exodus 19:16-25

In this scripture passage, God speaks in thunder. What were you taught about thunder? We any of you told that thunder is God bowling up in the heaven? Just how does God speak to us? How might we hear God's word in our modern day? Are you listening for the voice and instructions of God? How can you know what God expects of you? God often speaks through scripture, tradition, experience, and reason. Are you paying attention enough to hear God's voice today? What are you hearing? What is God saying to you?



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

*Do you have the Ten Commandments memorized in their exact order? Give it a try this week...*

*Are you obeying this first commandment?*

*What other gods compete with God in your life?*

Thursday 9/1/11  
Exodus 20:1

The First Commandment. The first of ten. Ten Commandments. Do you remember when you were first taught these Ten Commandments? What did you first think of them? "Thou shalt not..." It's sort of like when your parents looked you in the eye, pointed at something, and said, "Do not touch this!" Did you listen? Did you obey? Why do you think God gave Moses these ten commandments? Are you willing to obey them?

Friday 9/2/11  
Exodus 20:2-3

God, in this first commandment, declares who exactly God is: "I am the Lord your God." God also reminds the people that God brought them out of slavery in Egypt. Then God states the very first commandment: "Thou shall have no other gods before me." What does it mean to put God first? What other gods compete with God in your life? Are you keeping this first commandment?

Saturday 9/3/11  
2 Peter 2:1

Peter warns about false prophets coming to the people. He was concerned about false teachers negatively influencing the people. He was concerned about the people of his day not following the first commandment. There are many competing thoughts and beliefs in any age. Perhaps more so today than ever! What exactly do you believe? Do you recognize false teachers when you hear them? How strong are you in your faith? Can your faith withstand the false teachings you will encounter in our modern day? This first commandment indicates that God is a jealous God and demands our full attention and complete devotion.